Canada's Gay Community Magazine

OUTLOOKS

March 2006

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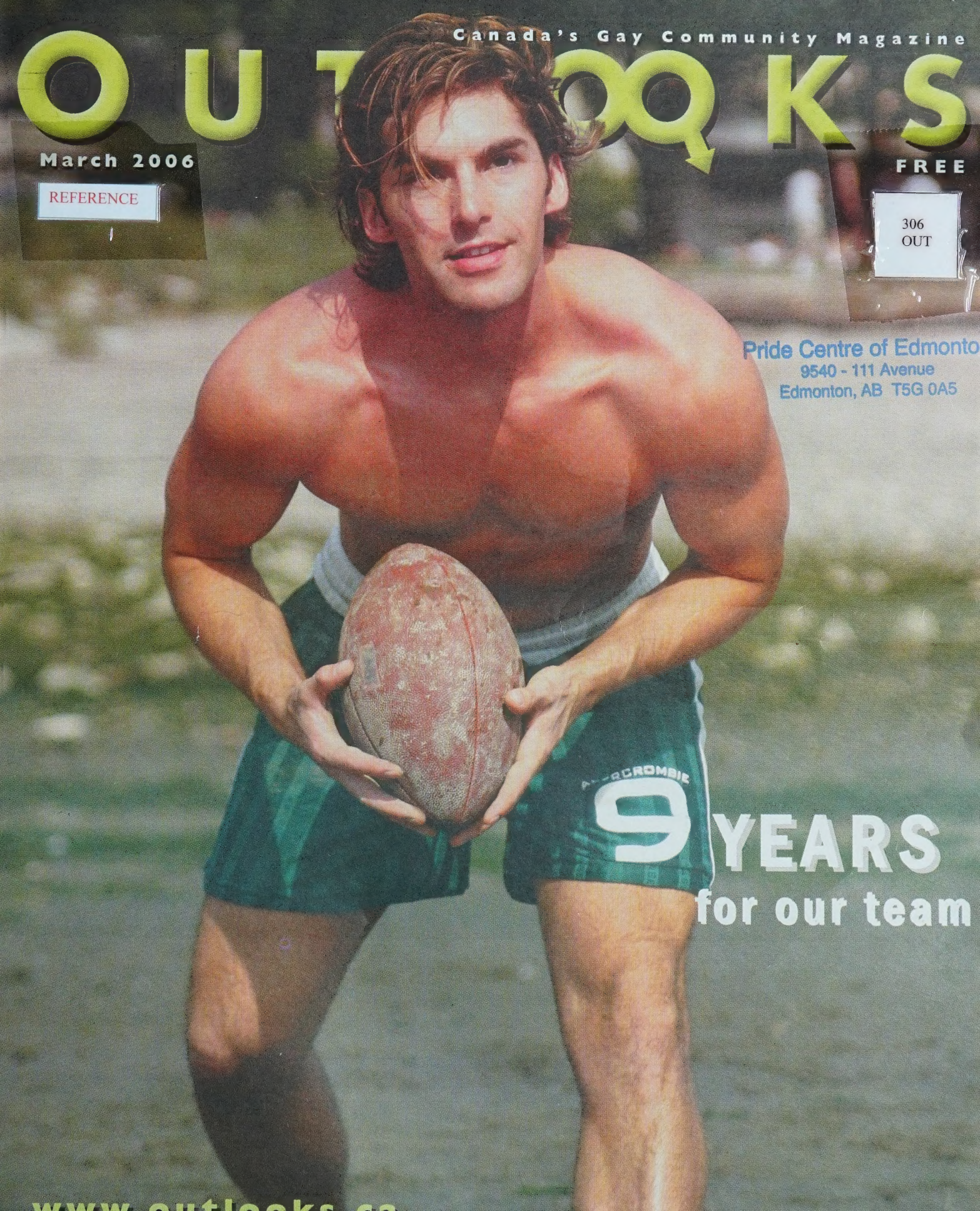
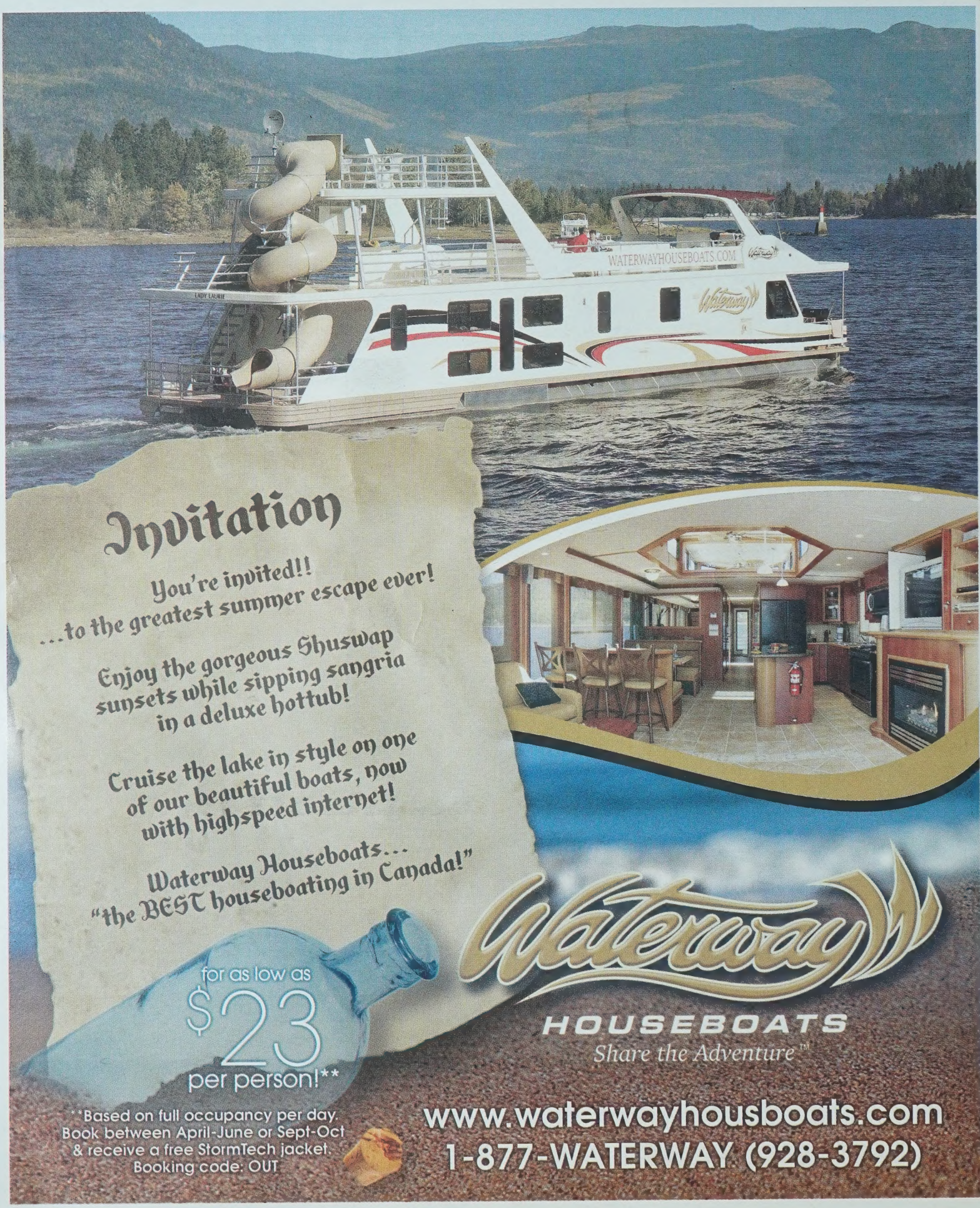


9 YEARS
for our team

www.outlooks.ca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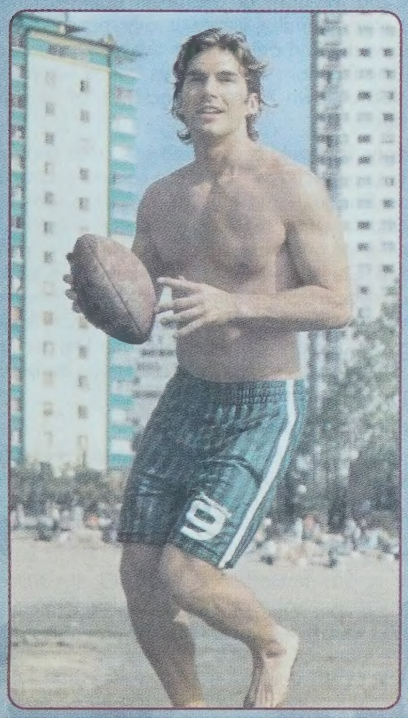
March in OUTLOOKS



On The Cover: Charlie David
photographed on the beach in Vancouver by Dany Papineau
mydigitalhead.com

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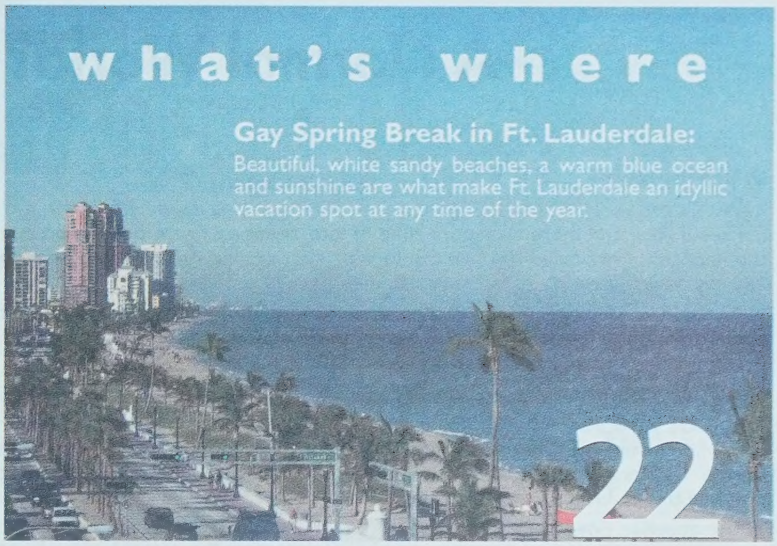

Gay Spring Break in Ft. Lauderdale:
Beautiful, white sandy beaches, a warm blue ocean and sunshine are what make Ft. Lauderdale an idyllic vacation spot at any time of the year.

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Oscars Go Gay:
In its 78 years, the Oscars have never been as Pride-worthy as they are this year.

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Singing Soul and Helping Out
Many communities in the Prairies witness an annual melt in the spring, but Vancouver may be the only civic centre in Western Canada to feature a *Motown Meltdown* each year.

A Normal World?

By John Coulbourn

I seem to spend more and more time of late, trying to figure out the precise moment that I've passed through the looking glass to find myself in this strange and topsy-turvy world.

And no, I'm not referring to the election of Stephen Harper and his band of merry miscreants—although that too is more than passing strange.

The West wanted in.

Then the West got in—at least if you accept the premise that a political party is in fact a particular compass point (which may, come to think of it, be a major part of the problem). And now that it's in, of course, the West is getting screwed by the Conservatives—in the same noble tradition that Central Canada got screwed by the Liberals they had supported for years.

The question now would seem to be "How do any of us get out?"

But stripe-changing members of parliament and appointed Senators awaiting the opportunity to get elected notwithstanding, this is still a strange, strange world and it gets stranger every day.

According to published reports, for instance, Alberta's tourism industry is feeling a trifle miffed because, after viewing all that beautiful mountain scenery in *Brokeback Mountain*, people now assume that it is all in Wyoming, instead of Alberta, where the film was shot.

Hey, folks, the answer here is simple. Just mount a big-budget ad campaign—hey, c'mon, you can afford it and you know it—assuring the world at large that not only is Alberta's scenery second to none, so is its bigotry.

Alberta may not have the cachet of a Matthew Shepard case, although I suspect one could be found if you dug hard enough. Still the ruminations of Ralph and some of his buddies on the whole same-sex marriage issue should be enough to convince all but the most stalwart Christian soldiers that Alberta doesn't have to take a back seat to anyplace when it comes to putting fags in their place and keeping them there.

And then there is the whole business of religion. Seems that a pretty major portion of the Islamic world is just a little up in arms over a few cartoons—and let's be clear right off the top.

The cartoons that enrage them the most are not the ones printed in Denmark's Jyllands-Posten, but rather a few others that a Muslim cleric based in Denmark conveniently claims were mailed to him anonymously.

Arguments about free speech and freedom of the press notwithstanding—although it should be pointed out that defending either usually means sticking up for people and causes most of us would find odious, for the simple reason that said freedoms inherently involve the freedom to say things that a lot of people find disagreeable—it's all finally come down to representatives of all religions asking us to show them more respect.

These would be the same religions, it should be pointed out, that showed the GBLTcommunity and its supporters so much respect in the recent 'debate' about same sex marriage: all those good Christian and Muslim folk who very quietly said that, while their religion didn't endorse homosexuality, they certainly respected our right to forge families of our own, albeit outside the confines of their particular faith; all the good Christian and Muslim folk who said that, because their church halls were exempt from paying taxes, they honoured the right of all law-abiding taxpayers to celebrate there; all the good Christian and Muslim folk who refused to vote for the very Christian Stephen Harper and his gang of bullyboys and girls, all of whom seem to feel that rights can be bestowed and withdrawn on the whim of any particular political party.

And in the end, you know, it is not an unreasonable request.

Like many other thinking Canadians, rest assured, I will continue to give organized religion of most any stripe all of the respect it has earned.

Now, can somebody tell me how to get back to a normal world? ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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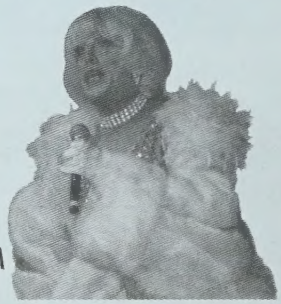

Congrats Outlooks on 9 great years!

Check out our site to see what else is happening
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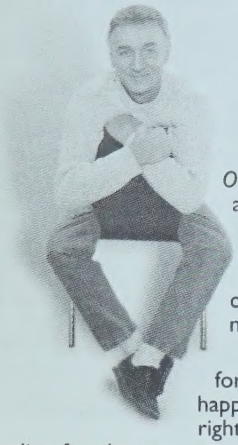
Support In Abundance

By Roy Heale



Each year as the month of March rolls around, *Outlooks* celebrates another anniversary. This year we are nine years old. Much has changed for Canada's GLBT community since we began publishing in 1997. Now it would appear with a new national Conservative government, led by Stephen Harper, we can expect more changes in the near future and not necessarily for the positive.

Many uncertainties arise: what will happen to funding for HIV/AIDS research and support services; what will happen with same-sex marriage legislation and other equal rights issues; what will happen with Heritage Canada's funding for the arts, community groups and the Canada Magazine Fund which supports *Outlooks*? Only time will tell and we will keep you informed as these changes occur during the upcoming months. Rest assured that there will be a greater need than ever to rally our support for groups like EGALE and the lobbying of politicians to maintain the status quo.

Recently in Calgary, we witnessed one of the most outstanding examples of community support and rallying for a family member struggling with a difficult personal crisis. Our good friend Boo has served the community in Calgary for over twenty-five years in various bars, restaurants and nightclubs—always with a cheerful smile. Now, Boo is facing a challenging battle with cancer. Many friends organised a fund-raiser at MoneyPennies' bar to help Boo with medical expenses. The Saturday event included a pool tournament, head shaving, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and a bottle drive. Literally hundreds of people turned out during the course of the afternoon and evening, resulting in over eighteen thousand dollars being raised. However, the money was secondary to the immense feeling of love and support that permeated MoneyPennies for the duration of the event. This amazing warmth and feeling of community spirit will probably do more to help Boo through her difficult time than any amount of money. We extend our thanks to those who gave generously (especially when it was a head of hair!), to MoneyPennies and everyone that helped to make this event possible.

When it comes to support, I have to say that *Outlooks* has also been truly blessed during these past nine years. Our anniversaries are always an occasion to reflect upon and to express our gratitude to you our valued readers. Your constant loyalty and support is always appreciated and every issue of *Outlooks* is produced with you in mind. Thanks are also due to our many writers, photographers, editors, models, graphics designers, distributors and distribution points across Canada. A very large team of freelancers and contractors are behind each edition of this magazine. It sometimes amazes people when they find out that only one person is employed full-time at the *Outlooks* office–Cap Peters our sales manager—and we thank him for being there everyday as the glue that keeps us all together.

Boo would like to thank all of her friends for their support!

As a free publication, we depend upon our advertisers to foot the bill for *Outlooks* and we thank them all for their ongoing support. In turn, we ask that you continue to patronise their businesses. Without the support of these businesses, *Outlooks* would cease to exist, thus their continued loyalty is critical to bringing this monthly magazine to you.

Lastly I would like to extend our appreciation to Heritage Canada whose support for *Outlooks* through a grant from the Canada Magazine Fund ensures that everyone involved with our editorial content receives an honorarium for their tireless effort on your behalf.

Examples of GLBT community support surround us at all times but can never be taken for granted. Every now and then, they surface and become abundantly clear to us all as a reminder of the meaning of the words 'community pride'.

Thank you for your support, which enables us to celebrate nine years publishing *Outlooks*. We look forward to many more years filled with true community support for each other.

We'll see you amongst these pages in the months ahead. ▼

OUTLOOKS

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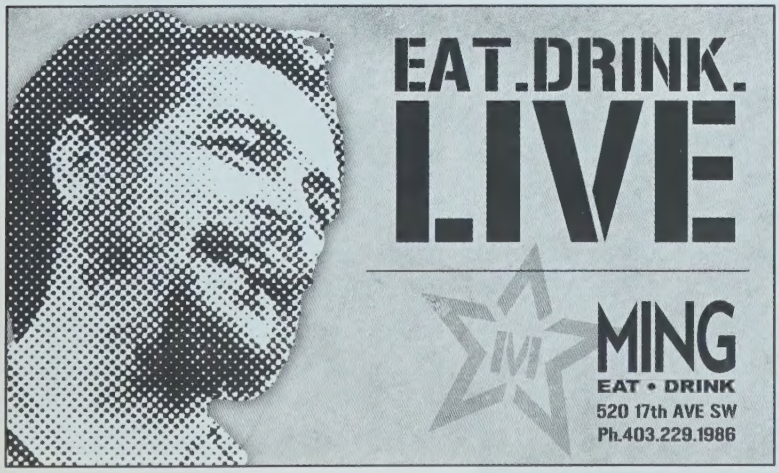
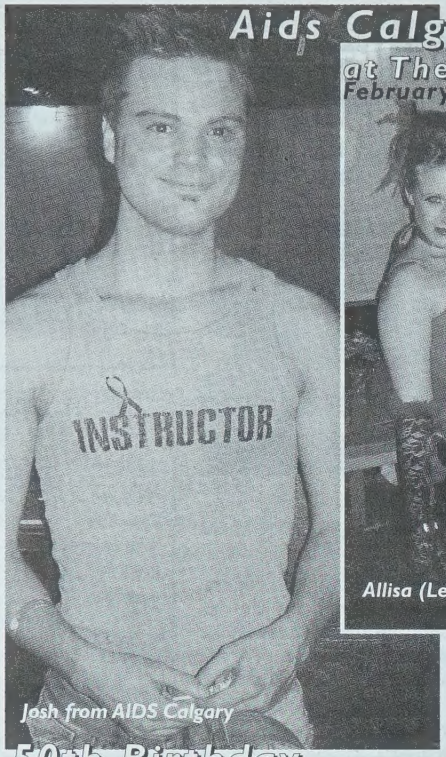


out & about CALGARY

Aids Calgary Fundraiser "RED"
at The Warehouse February 19th



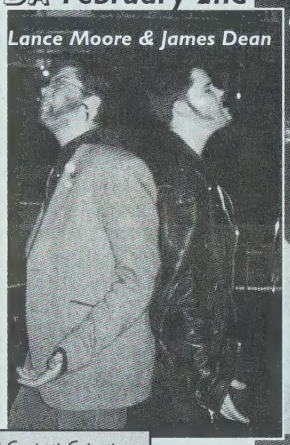
Josh from AIDS Calgary

Allisa (Left), Jana & Jessica

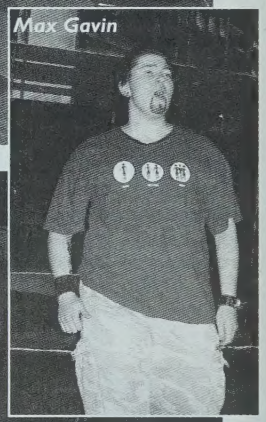
Jenny

DJ Geosphere

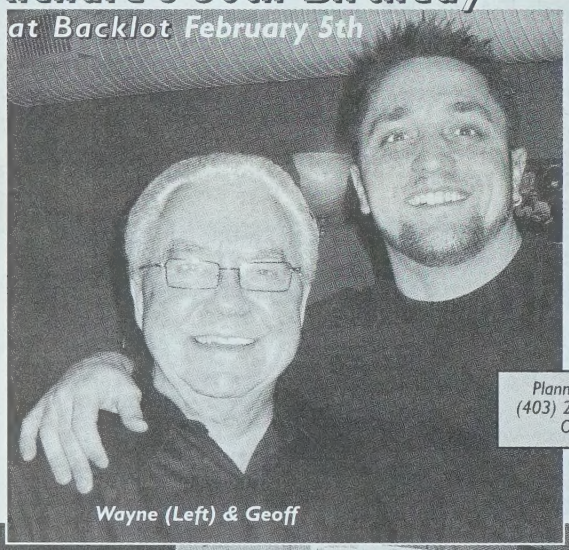
Fake Moustache
at SODA February 2nd


Lance Moore & James Dean

Cherrie


Max Gavin

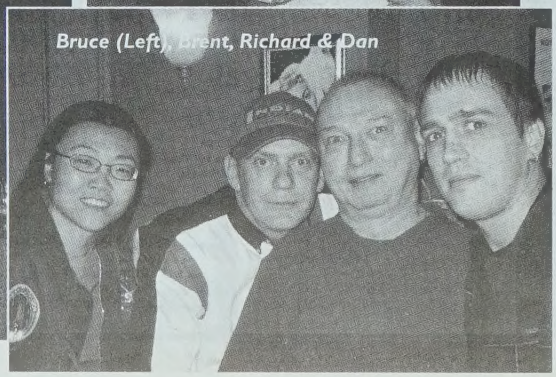
Richard's 50th Birthday
at Backlot February 5th

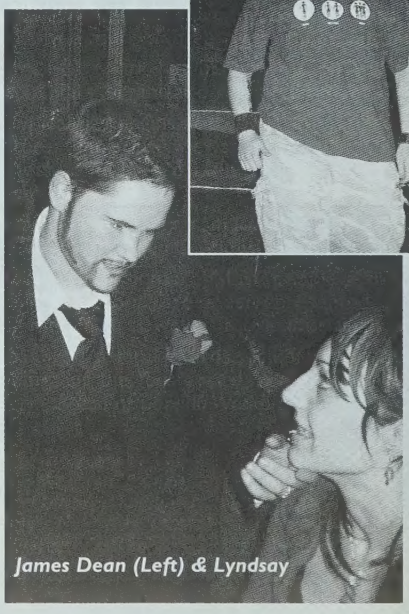

Wayne (Left) & Geoff

Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Cap at (403) 228-1157 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Outlooks Staff

Richard (Left), Judy, Rod & Rich

Ken (Left), Bob, Gary, Richard, Judy, Sweater & Flo


Bruce (Left), Brent, Richard & Dan


James Dean (Left) & Lyndsay

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Entertainer of the Year at Gio's

Jasmine Whore-Moan (Left) and P.J. Vanderloon

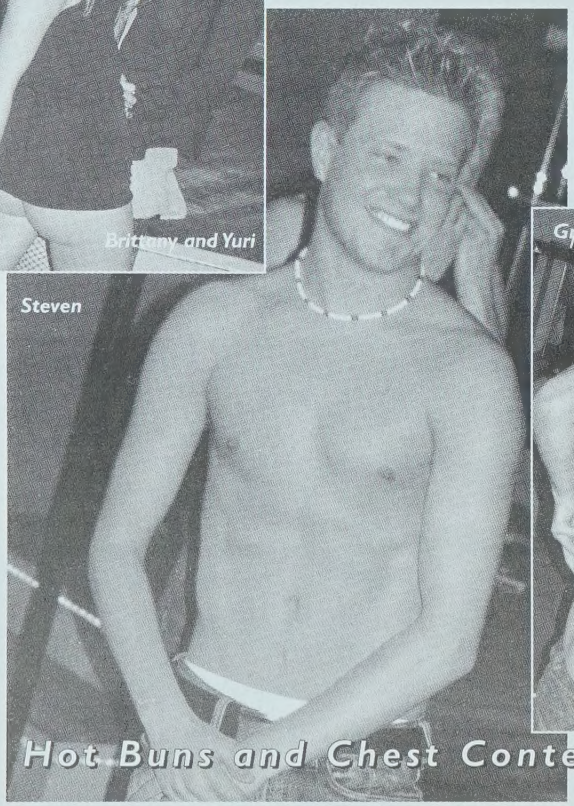
Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
All Photos By: Brent Y.

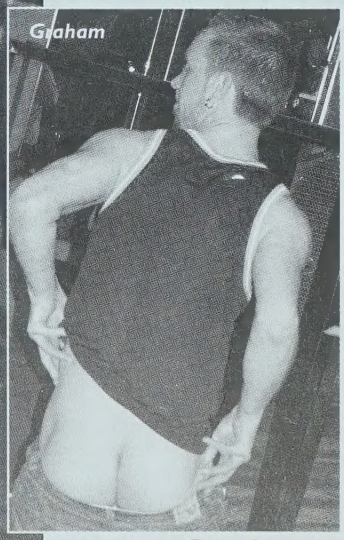
New Entertainer of the Year - Jessika Venom

Brittany and Yuri

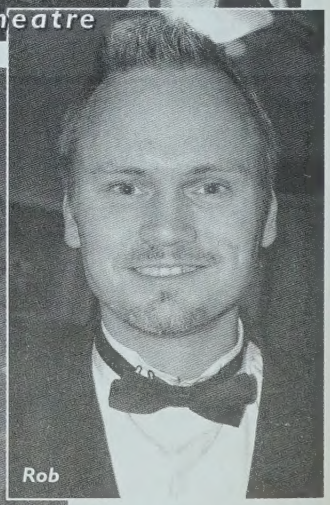
Phil Errup (Left), Cocktailia, Oliver Town, Gloria Booths, Licky D. Splits (background Pictoria Secrete)

An Evening with Oscar at the Park Theatre


Steven


Graham

Rita


Rob

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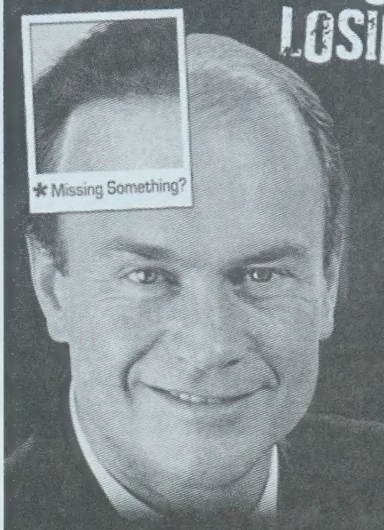

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HAPPENINGS AND KUDOS VANCOUVER

Upcoming fundraising Events

motown meltdown

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Saturday, March 11
at the Commodore Ballroom.

The Shooting Stars Foundation is at it again! Last year's fantastic show sold out fast, so this is your chance to catch all this amazing talent in one room, on one night. Below are just some of the performers ***'Doing Motown'***, all volunteering their time to raise money for local AIDS service agencies. Check out **www.shootingstarsfoundation.org** for info.

Coco Love Alcorn
Jim Byrnes
Leora Cashe
Dee Daniels
Norman Foote
Roy Forbes
Babe Gurr
Paul Hyde (The Payola$)
Riley Inge (FORMERLY ON STAGE WITH (The Temptations)
Angela Kelman (formerly of Farmer's Daughter) .
Linda Kidder
Cecile Larochelle
Tom Lavin (Powder Blues Band)
Jane Mortifee
Lori Paul
Ray Roper (Stonebolt)
Don Stewart
Sibel Thrasher
Shane Wiebe (Canadian Idol)
David Wills (Stonebolt)

Recent fundraising results

Dining Out For Life

Thursday, March 23

Don't miss Vancouver's premiere restaurant fundraising event benefiting **A Long Spoonful** and **Friends for Life**. This year more than **180 restaurants** from Whistler to White Rock and all over Vancouver will donate **25% of food sales** on March 23 to these two agencies, providing support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. In addition, title sponsor ***Wolf Blass wines will donate 75 cents from every bottle purchased in BC during the entire month of March***. For an up-to-date listing of participating restaurants or to donate online, visit **www.DiningOutForLife.com** or call 604-727-8225.

Dr. Peter Centre

The Association of Interactive Marketers has donated **$5,570** to the **Dr. Peter Centre** in support of those living with HIV/AIDS. This is the second donation made by **AIM** in two years. This donation was raised during the 2005 **Aim to Aid Charity Golf Tournament** held at Swan-e-Set Bay Resort and Golf Club on May 15th, 2005. **AIM** is already planning its third annual Aim to Aid Golf Tournament benefiting Dr. Peter's in Spring 2006.

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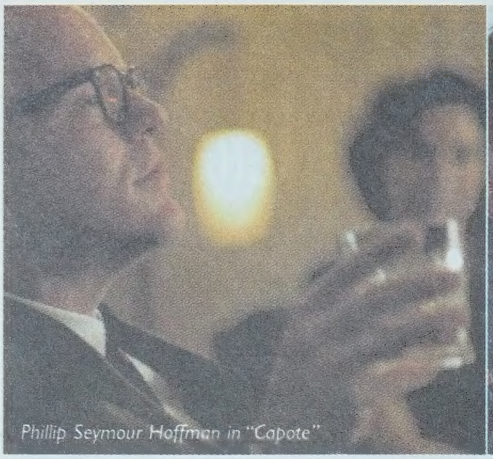
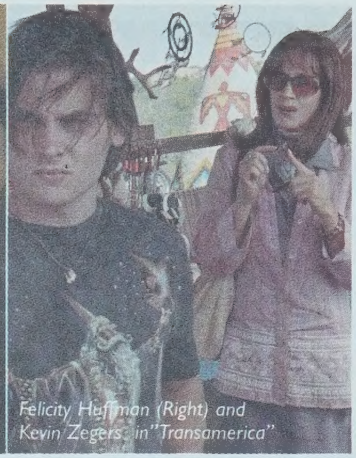


Phillip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote"



Felicity Huffman (Right) and Kevin Zegers in "Transamerica"

"Brokeback Mountain" stars Heath Ledger (Left) and Jake Gyllenhaal

Oscars Go Gay

By Benjamin Peters

In its seventy-eight years, the Oscars have never been as Pride-worthy as they are this year.

To be certain, actors playing gay or transgendered characters have received accolades, nominations and even the statue itself. Tom Hanks won the best actor Oscar in 1993 for *Philadelphia*.

Hilary Swank and Charlize Theron won their best actress Oscars for playing gay characters in *Boys Don't Cry* and *Monster*. William Hurt won his Oscar in 1985 for his portrayal of a transvestite in *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*.

As far back as 1969, John Schlesinger gave us a thinly disguised portrait of a gay relationship in *Midnight Cowboy*. Both John Voight and Dustin Hoffman were nominated in the best actor category but split the vote, allowing John Wayne to squeak in for *True Grit*.

Two years later, the openly gay Schlesinger would give Peter Finch one of his finest roles in a prestigious career as the gay London doctor obsessed with a bisexual played by Murray Head.

The big difference this year is that the four major Oscar categories have a gay-themed contender.

Brokeback Mountain, the story of a tragic love affair between two cowboys, is the year's most nominated film. It has nominations for best picture, best director (Ang Lee), best actor (Heath Ledger), best supporting actor (Jake Gyllenhaal). Brokeback is the first explicitly gay-themed movie to win an Oscar nomination for best picture, which means it's taken Hollywood seventy-seven years to finally acknowledge the gay lifestyle.

Ledger, who plays the cowboy Ennis Del Mar, is competing against Phillip Seymour Hoffman who plays famed gay writer Truman Capote in the drama *Capote*. *Capote* is also up for best picture.

Gyllenhaal, who plays Ledger's love interest in *Brokeback*, is up for best supporting actor. In *Transamerica* Felicity Huffman has been nominated as best actress for her portrayal of the pre-operative man who discovers he has fathered a son and must bond with the boy before he can complete his sex change operation. If all the stars were aligned properly, we could see a gay-themed best picture, a gay-themed best actor, a gay-themed best actress and a gay-themed best supporting actor.

Jenny Stewart, the manager of Entertainment Programming at PlanetOut in San Francisco, looks at the financial and critical success of *Brokeback Mountain* as an important phenomenon. "America has never had a gay love story as a mainstream box-office hit. Whether it wins its eight Oscars or not, it has already had a positive impact in changing people's opinions and tolerance of their gay counterparts," she explains.

Stewart has a theory as to why *Brokeback* has been a hit with so many straight audience members. "There is a built-in safety net in the casting of Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal who are both straight actors. I don't think the film would have been nearly as acceptable to straight audiences had it starred Robert Grant of *Queer as Folk* and Rupert Everett who are both openly-gay actors."

Stewart also points out that *Brokeback* is a tragic love story, a gay Romeo and Juliet if you'd like, which she feels makes it easier for straight audiences to accept. "I don't think America is ready for a gay *Gone With the Wind*, *Love Story* or *The Way We Were*."

She recalls that 1982's *Making Love*, which saw Harry Hamlin and Michael Ontkean play gay lovers, was a box-office disaster for trying to do just that. Even Oliver Stone's attempts to portray Alexander the Great as a bisexual had audiences stampeding away from theatres. Brad Pitt's character in *Troy* was bisexual in the early drafts of the film but that got excised quickly. She says *Capote* is the least adventurous and groundbreaking of this year's gay-themed Oscar contenders.

"*Capote* is a biography. People accept that Truman Capote was gay. They could have done that film fifteen or twenty years ago without causing a stir. You could not have done *Brokeback Mountain* or *Transamerica* even five years ago."

The screenplay for *Brokeback Mountain* actually languished in Hollywood for seven years with studios, producers, directors and actors shying away from its explicit treatment of a gay love story.

She says *Transamerica* is a trickier prospect. "The fact a movie like *Transamerica* could be made shows the kind of progress we're finally making in America. Films like this are made in Europe but not in America until now." Stewart is adamant "it's because of Felicity Huffman's profile on *Desperate Housewives* that people are going to see *Transamerica*. Unfortunately, it is still not doing good business, but at least it is out there. That in itself is positive. Gay-themed movies have not been great box-office draws."

Even with Tom Hanks and an Oscar in its back pocket, *Philadelphia* was only able to gross $77 million US. At $124 million, *The Bird Cage* is the top-grossing gay film of all time, followed closely by *Interview With the Vampire* ($105 million) and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* ($82 million).

The Crying Game managed to take in $63 million and *Monster* $34 million, but *Boys Don't Cry* managed just a paltry $11.5 million.

This year, the gay musical *Rent* had a disappointing $29 million box-office. *Breakfast on Pluto*, which has a stunning performance from Cillian Murphy as a transexual, hasn't even grossed $1 million.

If *Brokeback Mountain* does manage to nab the best picture Oscar, it will be a landmark achievement but not the one people like Ian McKellen are waiting for.

"I want to see an openly gay actor receive an Oscar. We've had our share of closeted actors accept Oscars, but no one who is openly gay," said McKellen when he was nominated for *Gods and Monsters* in 1990. ▼

Benjamin Peters is an entertainment writer whose stories have been published in magazines and newspapers in Canada, the U.S., Britain and Australia.

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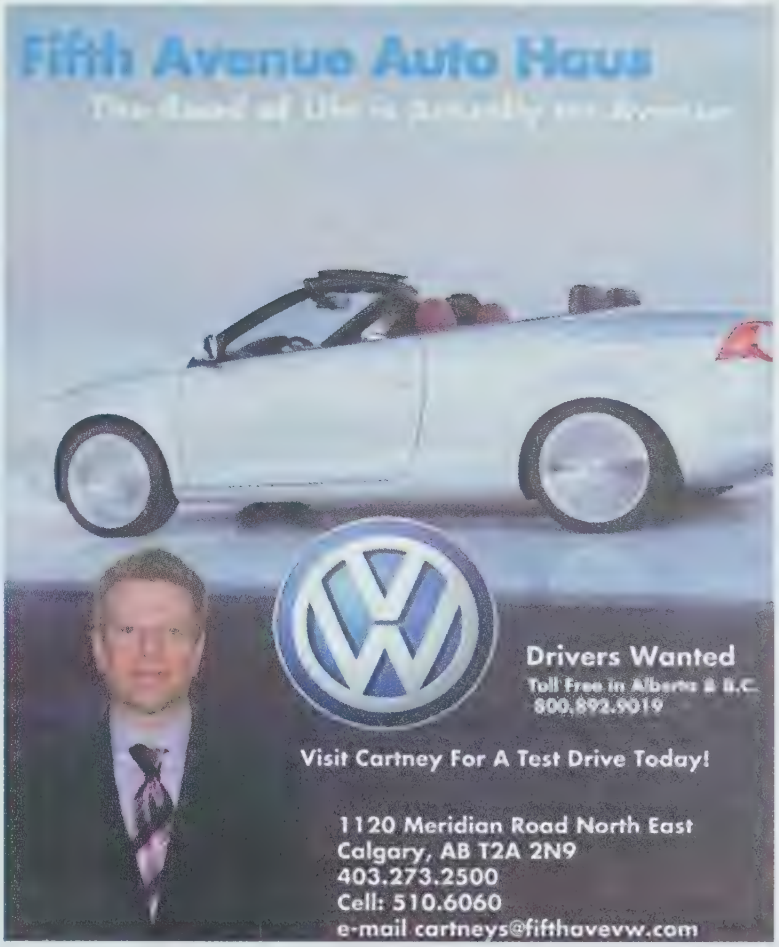

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Queer Camp

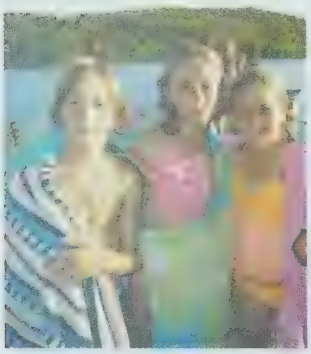
By Dale Smith

It's a generally held belief that gay and lesbian teens often have problems at school, be it with bullying or self-esteem issues. Sometimes, though, it's not just queer teens but also the children of gay or lesbian parents who are subject to the same kind of bullying and who have similar identity issues. For these kids, Holly Wagg and Julie Alarie saw a void in the community that needed to be filled and the Ten Oaks Project was born.

It started in 2004, when Holly was finishing her Masters' thesis. "I had worked for the past two summers at a summer camp in the States called Mountain Meadows, which is specifically for the kids of LGBTQ families," Wagg says. "I had been toying with the idea of eventually doing something like that here. Having a little bit of extra time on my hands, I did a needs assessment survey to see if it could happen. Less than two months later, we started attending meetings, we had a name and we had a logo. We decided to incorporate as a not-for-profit organization, which happened in July of 2004. We got our charitable status last winter and now we're a full-fledged organization with a board of directors."

The response to the needs assessment was huge. As it was distributed through the Internet, responses came from across the country, though it was primarily centred in Ottawa and the larger Ontario regions. "In a month and a half, we had over a hundred and twenty-five quotable surveys," Wagg says. "The responses came back with eighty-one percent saying that the community would like a camp specifically for the LGBTQ community, citing a whole range of needs on that survey from people having had experiences in traditional camp programs that didn't make them feel accepted, to costs being a very big factor—sixty-five percent of the families surveyed said they would need a sliding scale to make that program an option for them."

It's a hard cost of six hundred dollars a week to send a child to camp, and the average that families were able to pay last year was $150, though some families came in at a much higher end. As well, the site itself is rented which also adds to the cost. With the advent of Ten Oaks' charitable status, they have been raising money through a variety of ways including grant applications. "It's been challenging," Wagg says. "When we first started, we had the dilemma of needing money to run a camp program, but nobody wants to give money until you run something to show that it can be a success." Volunteers were not hard to find and applications for campers started coming in, so it was just a matter of funding. Between their first bowl-a-thon fundraiser, a one-time grant from the City of Ottawa and a few smaller fundraisers and individual donations, Camp Ten Oaks became a reality.



"Having worked in a similar camp environment before, I expected some impact, but we didn't anticipate half the things that happened," Wagg says. "Just the impact on the kids and their families, and the feedback we've received has been so incredibly strong about how much this one-week experience has transformed some of these kids' lives."

"There were these two sisters at camp, one was ten and one was eight," says Alarie. "It was one of the first few days of camp and they were sitting around the dining hall. One of the other campers said 'oh, my mom's got a partner,' and the little sister was like 'oh, what's a partner?' and the bigger sister nudged her and said 'It's okay, you don't have to be afraid here.' It's really simple stuff like that. But we have had parents call and say 'I don't know what you guys did with my kid, but his aggression has totally changed,' and we didn't know what we did either! Kids will just come out of their shells, or get to know their siblings—especially if they're queer youth and their straight siblings come to camp, and they'll get to know them in this whole other way."

Wagg steps in. "We know from one kid who banned his mother and his brother from attending Pride because he was so embarrassed, to turn around at the end of camp and march with the Camp Ten Oaks people and begged his mother and his brother to go to the Pride parade," she recounts.

According to Wagg, about ninety percent of the campers were kids from gay families, five percent were queer youth and the remaining five from straight-identified families who wanted their kids to have the experience, based on the social justice programming offered at the camp. "One of our campers, who had been horribly teased at school, had these bridging and exchange conversations with other kids and thought 'I thought I had it bad, but some of the things you guys go through are really bad,' and got some perspective on teasing and bullying and the variety of forms that it can take. Some of the issues that came up for a lot of our campers included the level of bullying and harassment they were facing in their school environment and in their everyday life, having the opportunity to share that they weren't the only kids who were being accused of being gay because their parents were gay, and having to defend who they were to their families all the time. It was a really powerful exchange for them."

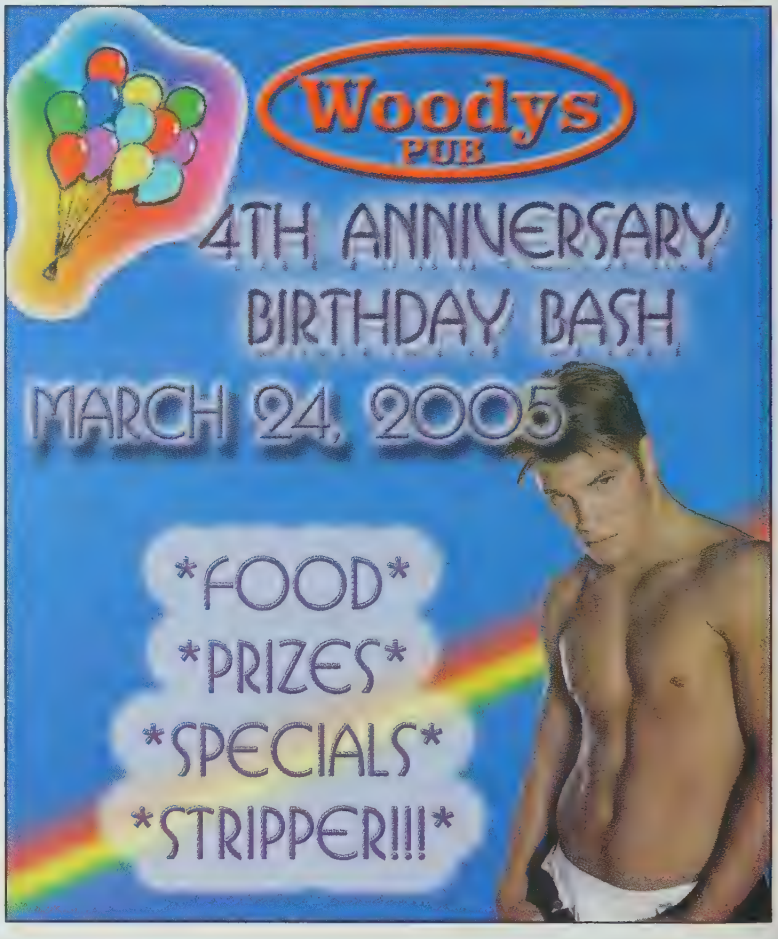
What also surprised a lot of the volunteers was the fact that these kids also had "normal" problems, like their best friends not talking to them or things like that. Wagg also recognized that a lot of kids also face problems relating to divorce and custody arrangements.

The camp has now been proven a success. Wagg and Alarie are looking forward to this year's events. While last year, they were able to accommodate less than thirty campers, this year they are already planning for more than forty based on the overwhelming responses to date. "Senior campers" from last year will also be taking leadership programs so that they will be able to become staff by next summer. The board has grown from five members to nine this year and the entire Project remains volunteer-run. The camp runs from August 20 to 26 this year, aimed for kids aged eight to seventeen.

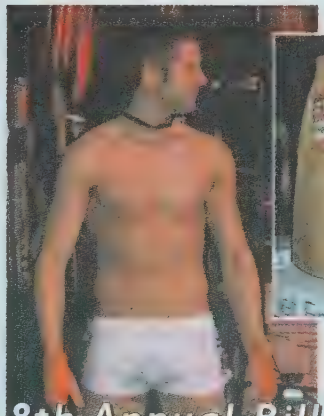
"It's a great time," Wagg says. "Camp is really a place for kids to be kids—and that's what we're about."

To find out more about Camp Ten Oaks, go to **camptenoaks.org**. ▼

Dale Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Ottawa. His work also regularly appears in Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and he has previously written for XY Magazine.



Sean (Left) & Rob



Outlooks' Rob (Left), Bill and Cap

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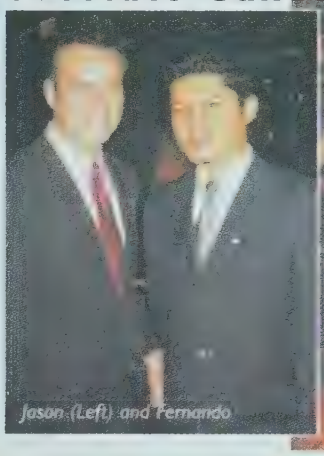
Jason (Left) and Fernando

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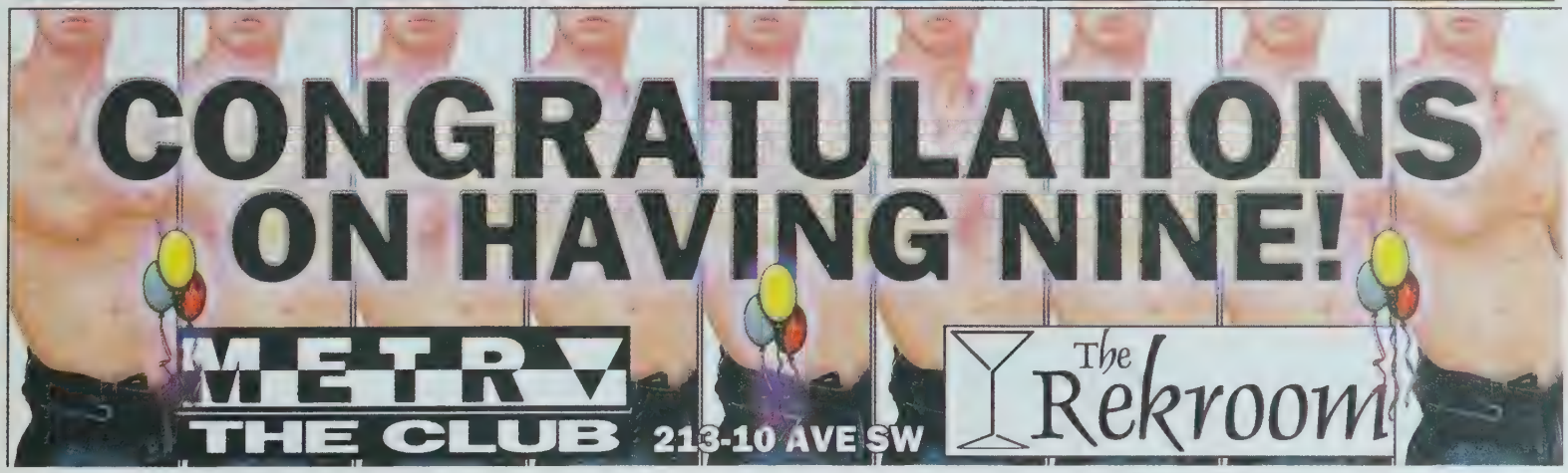

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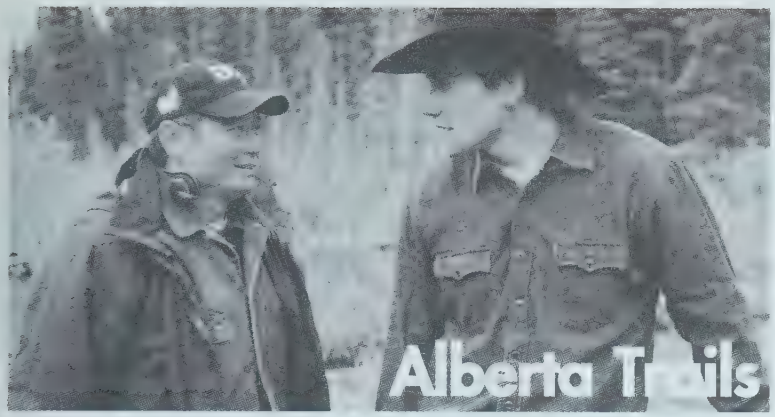

By Darrin Hagen

As sexy as Heath and Jake look in *Brokeback Mountain*, there is an even better-looking star at work behind them in almost every scene—the Alberta landscape.

It would be hard to find a film project that better capitalizes on the amazing land where the prairies meet the mountains. The scenery throughout the film is breathtaking, even to those of us who grew up in the neighbourhood, or have driven through the mountains on countless childhood family vacations.

Could the success of *Brokeback Mountain* translate into real-time tourist dollars for the Cowboy Trail?

The answer is yes, if you believe what's currently happening in Wyoming. Not only has the state's department of tourism been handling literally thousands of calls from tourists, both queer and straight, about visiting the setting of the film, but they are also targeting the gay tourist dollar with an active campaign to bring the buck to the foothills.

The problem is, those foothills are ours. Those queer tourist dollars should be coming our way. It gives one pause to think of Ralph's reaction to an influx of gay cowboy fans. Does he even know we have our own Gay Rodeo?

Being a boy who grew up on the Cowboy Trail, I feel compelled to share some advice for the gay Foothills tourist. Like the world in *Brokeback*, small-town southwestern Alberta has corners that are stuck forever in prairie time, frozen like a frontier snapshot, the sepia tones reflected in everything from the rolling hills and dusty parking lots, to the worn chaps and the leather jackets of the men.

Ahh, the Alberta men. Yes, they're real. And even though *Brokeback* is set in the 1960s, it feels and looks like it happened yesterday. The careful stares, the rural male monotone—all still exist in Alberta.

But be careful whom you invite for a fishing weekend. A good fight is as common as a church potluck. A general rule for the gay cowboy cruiser is look, but don't approach. Unless, of course, you're at the Gay Rodeo.

But what the tourist really wants to know is where to go to recreate your own *Brokeback* moment. Worldwide, gay couples are planning their own puptent-by-the-rushing-creek romantic getaway. So, I did the work and found out where these scenes were filmed.

The small-town main streets are wide here because there's nothing but space. Wind sweeps the dust in small tornadoes that meander through the towns. And to visit the fateful parking lot where Ennis and Jack first meet, you need to head to Cowley, a village a few minutes from Pincher Creek. The village's website proudly proclaims that you're in cattle country, but Cowley's other claim to fame is its wind turbines, the first of their kind in Canada. As well, the bar where the hunky actors have their first beer together is in the local tavern. Don't plan to stay overnight at the hotel, though… rather, check out one of the many bed and breakfasts that dot the surrounding area.

The towns of Beiseker, Blackie, Rockyford and Crossfield all played supporting roles in *Brokeback*. These are true prairie towns whose main streets, storefronts, bars and hotels haven't changed much in the decades since I was a kid. In every shot, you can see far into the distance, the grass bending over in wave after graceful wave from the force of the incessant wind.

The town of Fort Macleod saw a lot of film action, as it was where Ennis and his wife and daughters moved in above the laundromat. It was also home to the scene where Ennis strikes his heroic lonely cowboy pose with the rocket's red glare in the background. It's a truly American moment, and yet it took a town in Alberta to supply the mood.

If camping is more your style, head to the many campgrounds on creeks and lakes in Kananaskis Country, a getaway for Southern Albertans that rivals Banff National Park for sheer majesty, and the main source for wilderness settings in the film. Recreate your favourite *Brokeback* moments at Canyon Creek (make sure there are no families watching if you do a crouching creek-side scrubdown à la Jack Twist), or take a hiking trail and stand on the wooden footbridge that crosses the Kananaskis River at Galatea Creek (where Ennis picked up food supplies for the week), or have a picnic at Elbow Falls. Be careful at King Creek, where Ennis runs into a bear.

"I wish I knew how to quit you," has to be the most-quoted line from the movie. It's the perfect line for the moment, and for men for whom words are difficult and dangerous. The location for that scene is an easy one to find—it's the Upper Kananaskis Lakes parking lot.

Alas, one of the most notable locations in the film, at least for naked-actor-watching, is unavailable to the public. The cliff that Jack and Ennis jump from (you may have been distracted by other things on the screen) is on private property. So any dreams you may have had about you and your new Alberta cowboy friend leaping from the bluff in the buff into the ice-cold mountain water will have to wait until…well, maybe the Gay Rodeo.

The end of the film shows an aging Ennis living alone in an old trailer court. For me, it was one of the truest moments in the story. Beyond his trailer lies the vast expanse of Alberta's grasslands, stretching farther than a man can imagine. In the trailer court where I grew up, there was a bachelor living in a small trailer down by the field. Now, for the first time, I wonder what his story was. It made me realize that tales like *Brokeback Mountain* aren't new or groundbreaking at all…in fact, they've been lived countless times by countless men. In Cowboy Country, men don't cry—and they don't share their secrets. Like the prairie that is their home and their prison, they witness much more than they will ever reveal. ▼

Darrin Hagen is the author of six book and cover story of [illegible] wearing a dress. He is [illegible] "The Edmonton Queen".

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Breaking the silence

By Megan Morman

Back in January, I got a call from Nicole White, Director of the LGBTA Centre at the University of Saskatchewan Student Union. "I'm working on the Carnival of Sex," she explained. She was looking for someone to paint a giant representation of female anatomy. "You know, something that people can stick their face in and have their picture taken," White said. "I thought of you."

Bemused but flattered, I agreed. I began to imagine making something like the most famous giant girly bits: We're Talking Vulva, the award-winning 1990 film by Winnipeg artists Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan. In it, Dempsey, clad in a foam latex vulva suit (with her head where the clit would be), raps and dances her way through a tour of 'down there'.

Dempsey and Millan will be in town in March for the *Breaking the Silence Conference*, their third trip to Saskatoon in as many years. In 2004, they performed as the Lesbian Rangers at Saskatoon's Fringe Festival. Last June their AKA Gallery-sponsored *Scentbar: Fragrances for Troubled Times* drew floods of people during the first weekend of Pride. At this year's *Breaking the Silence*, they'll present Friday night's keynote lecture, a performative talk entitled *Piercing the Thin Skin of Normal: Queer Art and Activism*.

The *Breaking the Silence: Gays and Lesbians in Our Schools Conference* will enter its ninth year in 2006. Sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan's College of Education, the conference brings together rural and urban teachers, students, administrators, community activists and other stakeholders to talk about gay and lesbian issues in education.

Until his retirement last spring, former Head of the Department of Educational Foundations Don Cochrane fueled the engine that drove Breaking the Silence. Working with a diverse advisory committee, Cochrane has worked tirelessly to bring gay and lesbian issues to the attention of both schools and teachers-to-be. Although he has recently relocated to the British Columbia, emeritus professor Cochrane is still connected to and deeply involved in LGBT issues and Saskatchewan community. In June, he received a Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for his advocacy work.

Cochrane has high praise for the University. "From the first time I took the proposal for the conference to the College of Education administrative advisory committee to the present, we have known nothing but support," he says. "Virtually every senior administrator in the university has opened the conference at one time or another over the past nine years."

Breaking the Silence's history of keynote speakers is impressive, including Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury and Little Sisters lawyer Joe Arvay. Cochrane fondly recalls Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong's address at Knox United Church in 2003, "Over 700 people crowded into the church to hear the bishop testify to his own journey, deconstruct fundamentalist assumptions (Biblical, social, and psychological) and offer a liberating alternative."

This year's theme is *Re-Imagining the Possible: Inspiring Change Through the Arts*. Artists and organizers working in performance, video and theatre have been invited to speak and lead workshops on how their public practices and queerness intersect. Asked how the conference's advisory committee chose the theme, Cochrane replied, "Serendipity! The way resources for the conference seemed magically to appear made it clear that this was the year for the arts."

Speakers and workshop leaders will come from a variety of backgrounds: academic, activist and cultural. Dempsey and Millan will discuss their practice of art and activist education; University of Regina theatre professor Wes Pearce will present his paper 'Fear and Loathing in Surrey: Homophobia and The Laramie Project'; leaders of Edmonton's Camp fYrefly will discuss strategies for arts-based community consciousness-raising; emerging Calgary-based video artist Edward Lee will screen his documentary *The Invisible Son*.

Students are increasingly involved in all phases of planning and organizing the conference. In 2005, over fifty high school students attended Breaking the Silence, including several youth-only workshops and brainstorming sessions. "The energy they brought to the program was unforgettable. They had no difficulty in speaking up last year at the conference and we hear that they are not exactly wilting flowers in their schools either!" says Cochrane of the several gay-straight alliances (GSAs) who encouraged their members to attend.

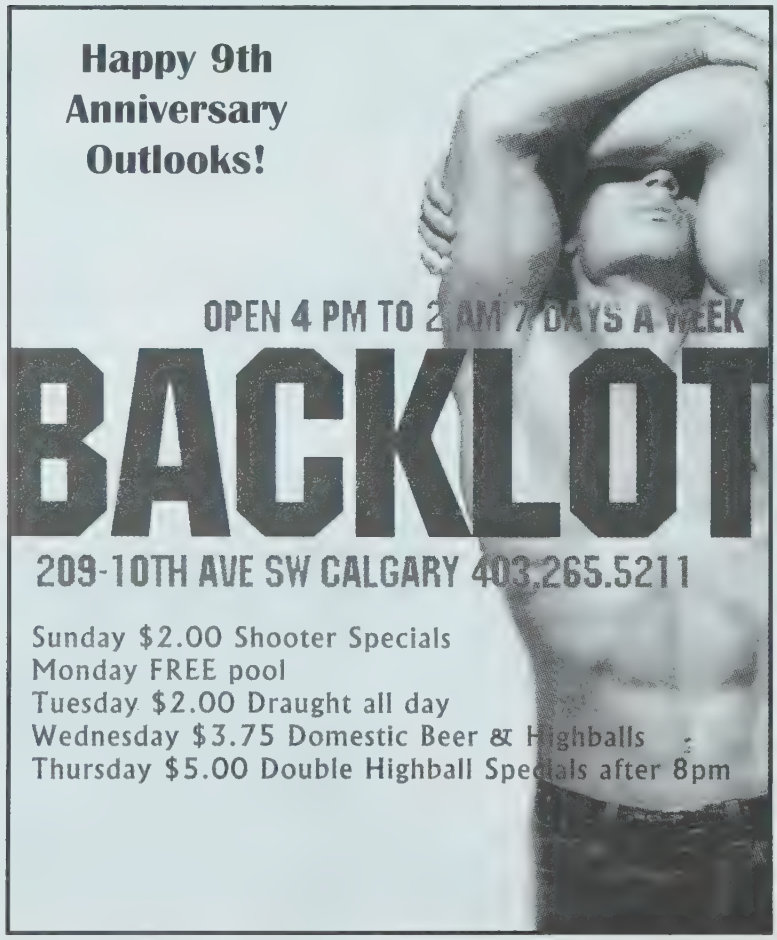
Along with students, the conference's advisory committee includes high school teachers, administrators, and representatives from a host of other University and community-based organizations: the USSU LGBTA Centre, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, PFLAG, Youth Launch, the Avenue Community Centre, Saskatoon's Catholic school board, and the newly-formed College of Education GSA.

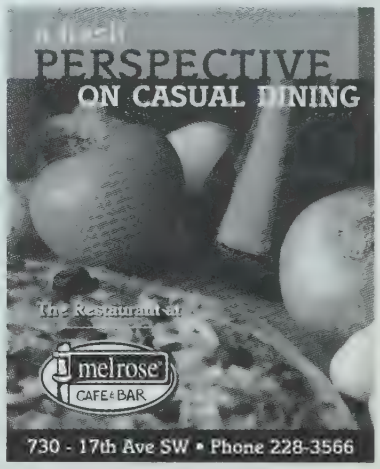
In the past decade there have been major advances in the visibility of GLBT people both in educational and larger communities. A 1998 press release points out the difficulty of finding gay teachers willing to participate in a public panel for fear of being ostracized by administration. And although strongly supported by University administration, early conferences had their share of naysayers—including ubiquitous ex-gay protester Bill Whatcott. Cochrane is modest but optimistic about the conference's role in creating change. He points to the recent creation of a new provincial subject council, the Saskatchewan Straight and Gay Alliance, as sending a strong signal to the educational community that GLBT rights are human rights and are becoming part of the mainstream.

The *Breaking the Silence Conference* will be held March 17-18 in Quance Theatre, Education Building, on the U of S campus. For more information call (306) 966-7549 or email B.the.S@usask.ca. Programmes and registration information can also be found online at **usask.ca/education/edfdt/breaksilence.htm.** ▼

Megan Morman likes lemonheads and rhubarb rock; she can be found online at http://www.populust.ca/ladylady

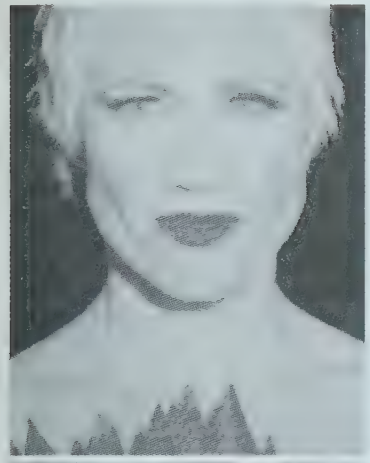
The Carnival of Sex is a safer-sex fair and a fundraiser for AIDS Saskatoon. Drag shows, dildo races and fun with giant genitalia will take place March 3-4 at Louis' Pub and Diva's Private Gay Club and are free for all. For more information call the USSU LGBTA Centre at (306) 966-6615 or visit avenuecommunitycentre.ca.





Singing Soul and Helping Out

By Josh Murray



Performers (Top) Lori Paul and (Bottom) Coco Love Alcorn

Many communities in the Prairies witness an annual melt in the Spring but Vancouver may be the only civic centre in Western Canada to feature a 'Motown Meltdown' each year. The Meltdown is a rousing musical event that kicks off the admirable year-long work of The Shooting Stars Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and executing successful fundraising events in the Lower Mainland to benefit people living with HIV and AIDS.

Shooting Stars is responsible for a number of hot tickets throughout the year—Vancity's Starry Night at the Stanley Theatre among them—but Executive Director Kendra Sprinkling says Motown Meltdown is always a great kickstart—perhaps even because of the season. "People may have a little sunnier disposition in the spring, especially if it is light out and the heavens have dried. Offer a fun event with a twist and they will come any time of the year," she says. This year's event takes place March 11th at Vancouver's famed Commodore Ballroom and, like previous years, it promises to be full of the best that the city's musical community has to offer. "The minute the band plays the first chord and the first guest artist hits the stage, the dance floor fills with people who gotta dance. The artists involved in the show love it," says Sprinkling.

Motown Meltdown will feature over thirty unique performers, all backed by a full twelve piece band, giving their all at one of Vancouver's cultural landmarks: the legendary Commodore. "It's that great dance floor, I think," Sprinkling surmises, explaining what makes the venue so special. "And the history of the building itself," she adds. The hallowed planks of the venue's stage have been trodden by performers as renowned as Tina Turner, Kiss and David Bowie so it's most certainly a pleasure for the musicians involved to appear at the great locale. "I know that musicians from all over the world consider the Commodore a favorite room to play," she confirms.

And the location is also a treat for fans. A large and dedicated group attends each year. "Shooting Stars events have a tremendously loyal audience—fortunately—and they support all our shows because they know they will get great value and have a stellar time," Sprinkling says. And much of that 'stellar time' is a direct result of the diverse group that performs. Juno Award-winning blues legend Jim Byrnes will take the stage, along with Canadian Idol alum Shane Wiebe, The Powder Blues Band's Tom Lavin, local powerhouse Sibel Thrasher and more than a dozen others.

Babe Gurr, a Vancouver-based roots-rocker is a definite highlight on the bill—and certainly a performer who is thrilled to be a part of it all. "I've had a lot of great gigs over the years that I really loved, but this is very special," says Gurr. Crooning Motown, though, is not necessarily something she is all that familiar with. Her music, captured on three CDs available online via her website babegurr.com, is often compared to the musical stylings of Jann Arden, Chrissie Hynde and Shawn Colvin. "My music is definitely far removed from Motown," she confesses. "[But] I don't often get a chance to sing with such a large band and without a guitar slung over my shoulder, so it's really quite different than what I'm used to. A total pleasure! A number of the entertainers are in a similar situation."

"Classic Motown has seeped into the musical consciousness of artists in every genre," Sprinkling concurs. "Motown begat hip-hop and pop. The Beatles and Stones borrowed songs from Motown artists. It's an important musical form." The audience clearly recognizes this when they take to the dance floor. "The music connects on a kind of primal level. It is impossible not to move to a good Motown song," says Sprinkling "I think people remember the lyrics and the melodies and they get transported to 'party land'."

After more than ten years personally producing and directing shows for Shooting Stars, Kendra Sprinkling certainly has seen her share of performances. Despite the experience, she has not grown any more immune to the raw energy, emotion and enthusiasm of the night. "There are too many special moments to pinpoint," she admits.

Babe Gurr looks forward to making memories of her own this year as well. "Just sharing the night with my peers, who have all come together to help raise money for a very important cause is really moving," she says. She has performed in past years and says the opportunity to gather with like-minded performers eager to help is always a welcome one. "It is one of the only times that you feel such a sense of community and support in a large way." The great diversity among the performers, for her, is an added treat. "Everyone is so excited…that nobody wants to stay in the dressing rooms so we all end up standing side-stage watching the concert and cheering each other on. It's a blast!"

Unlike the work of others at the side of the stage—many of whom dabble in jazz recordings or blues licks—Gurr's latest release, the album Back Alley Porch, is a collection of introspective, thoughtful rock tracks. "The reaction has been very positive," she explains. "I am thrilled as I wasn't sure how it would be received because I have gone a little more 'rootsy' on this CD compared with my last CD which was more adult contemporary-pop."

Responses to her live performances are often just as positive. But even after the curtain falls on Babe Gurr's set and those of the other Motown Meltdown headliners, the work of the Shooting Stars Foundation, and Kendra Sprinkling in particular, is far from done. Funds raised are not only collected at the events but also distributed by the group to frontline charities that strive to assist those living with HIV and AIDS. In the past, a number of worthy local organizations have benefited from the tremendous financial help, including the Dr. Peter Centre, A Loving Spoonful and Food for Thought Society. Even with the success, Sprinkling is still looking ahead.

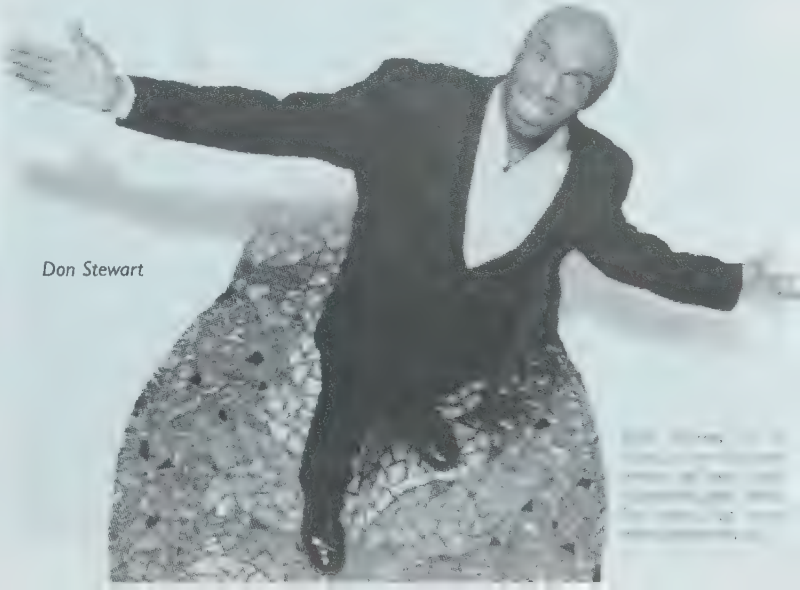
"After Motown Meltdown, I will be giving all my attention to our fifth year of Fit For A Queen," she says enthusiastically. The foundation's next major event, Fit for a Queen also promises to be a boisterous one. Fit for a Queen is an annual drag extravaganza billed as a "Vegas-style" night full of female impersonation and humor. Sprinkling describes it as "glorious, hilarious and elegant". Last year's success will be repeated with an undoubtedly entertaining show in May at the Stanley Theatre.

No matter which event is under discussion though, the goal of the Shooting Stars Foundation is always unchanged: "to produce unique special events with passion, integrity and innovation to raise money for people living with HIV/AIDS." And, despite twenty years in the fundraising business, no one is resting on their laurels.

"There are a lot more fundraisers happening out there and therefore you have to really produce a unique and professional event with tremendous value to get noticed in the crowd," Sprinkling explains. And Gurr, for one, is proud of the finished product year after year.

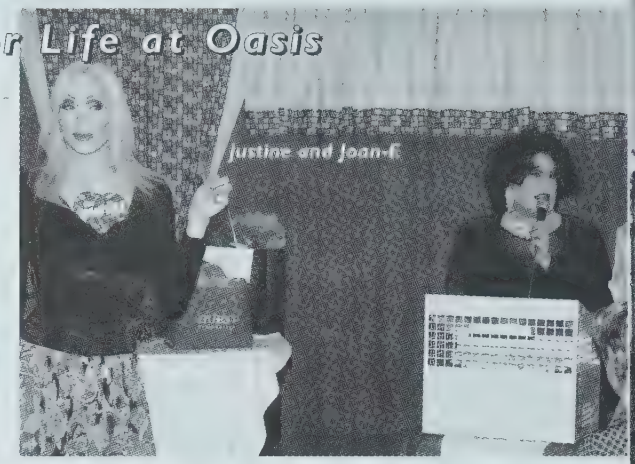
"It's an incredibly fun night of fabulous music with great musicians and singers that you normally don't get to see all in one night," she says. Then she adds, "And you are making a contribution that will help many people who are living with HIV/AIDS".

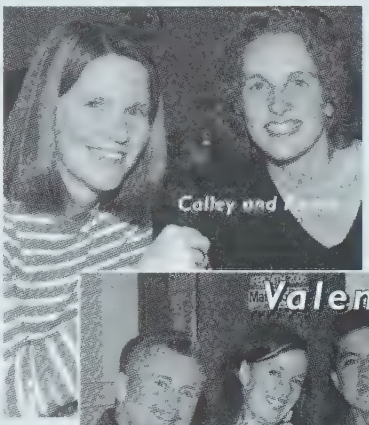
Clearly, the audience immediately benefits from the assembled talent and charities ultimately benefit from the impressive dedication. ▼



Don Stewart

Bingo For Life at Oasis


Justine and Joan-F.

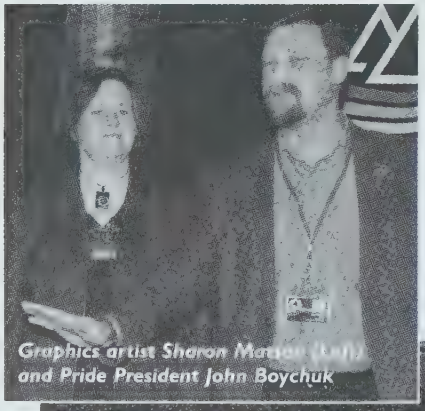

Calley and

Justine Time

Valentine's Day at Oasis

Angus Draught, the lady from Tourism Vancouver and three guys who were broadcasting live on Mexican radio (W radio).

Velvet (left) and Ray (right) and their friends


Graphics artist Sharon Marion (left) and Pride President John Boychuk

Pride&Joy
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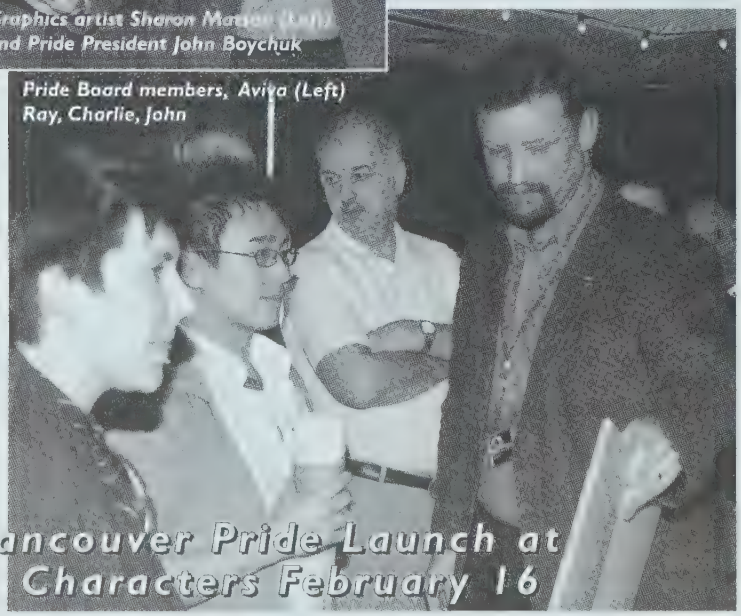
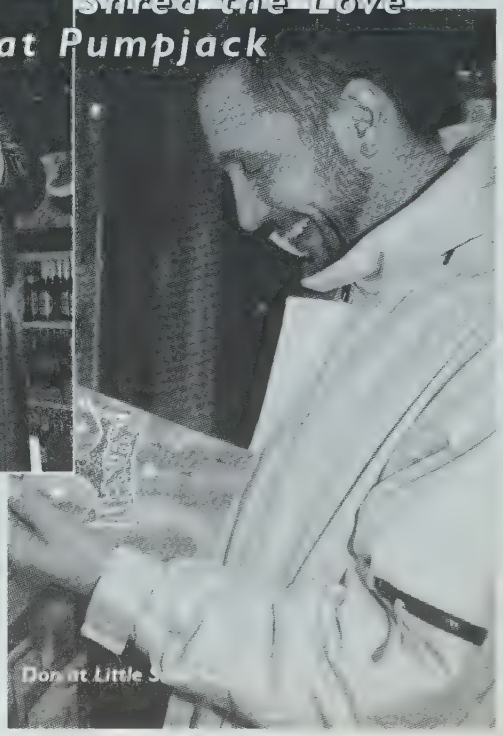

Pride Board members, Aviva (Left) Ray, Charlie, John

Vancouver Pride Launch at Characters February 16

Rob

Broken Hearts Club Shred the Love at Pumpjack


Don at Little S

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos by: Barry Piersdorff

Leather Reign

M Cuir Montréal

By Daniel Wylie & Michael Sinnott

The Monsieur Cuir Montréal (Mr. Leather Montréal) contest was held during a busy fun-filled Labour Day weekend on Sunday September 4th, 2005. Mr. Bo Ladashevska won the title as M. Cuir Montréal 2006. We recently had an opportunity to sit down with him and his husband, Guy Primeau, to discuss his year so far and his hopes and wishes for the rest of the year.

Outlooks: How did you both meet and come to live in Montréal?

Guy: I had seen a picture of Bo in the gay publication *Swerve* in Winnipeg and mentioned to mutual friends that I would love to meet him. I still have that copy of the magazine.

Bo: Guy and I met in Winnipeg in 1995. We met after I sent him a beer and he came over to the table. Guy was shy yet engaging with everyone. What I found most attractive about him was how inclusive he was with my friends. He invited me back to his place for *coffee* and the rest is history. We dated for several months. Guy was retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces and he was moving back home to Montréal and I decided to join him.

Outlooks: How long have you been together?

Guy: We met on January 17, 1995. We just celebrated our eleventh anniversary. We had a civil union on the same date in 2003. It makes it easier to remember!

Outlooks: What made you decide to run for M. Cuir Montréal?

Bo: I had been Mr. Fuel Montréal 2004 and had a lot of fun working and promoting the city and its events. A lot of our friends encouraged me to enter M. Cuir Montréal and after discussing it with Guy, we decided to go for it. It was a joint decision. We discussed a lot of potential scenarios that might take place in the event that I won the title. We felt we had a strong foundation in our relationship so that whatever curves that we would encounter we would be able to handle.

Outlooks: Guy, what do you think of Bo being M. Cuir Montréal and how do you see your role?

Guy: I feel very proud! I was supportive of Bo during his Fuel title and that helped me to prepare for this role as a husband to a leather title holder. A lot of attention is paid to Bo while we are traveling but we think of this title as a shared responsibility. Bo is there to help represent Montréal locally and abroad and I am there to support Bo in his task. I am a very laid back kind of man. Having been in the military and having worked with military protocol has prepared me to be a better leather partner. I am there to help promote Bo in whatever manner I can.

Outlooks: How do you want to define your time as M. Cuir Montréal?

Bo: I want to be remembered as a person who is approachable. We both feel that we are open to everyone. We have had a lot of positive discussions with people outside the LGBT community. We want to promote a positive image of leather while showing everyone that you can maintain a relationship, hold down a job and participate in the various aspects of the community at large as well as the leather community. I want to help to promote, strengthen and bring greater visibility to Montréal's LGBT community, and more specifically, it's leather community.

Outlooks: You have described Leather with words like integrity, trust, honour, commitment and compassion—can you expand on why you used these words as they relate to you being M. Cuir Montréal?

Bo: Integrity is being true to oneself, I try to live my life as an open book. What you see is what you get! Trust—promoting relationships with friends, family and brothers/sisters in leather. Trust is something that needs to be earned and I want to earn the trust of Montréal's leather and LGBT community by promoting the city to the best of my ability. We are the result of a vision created by generations of brothers and sisters who have predated us. We honour these persons by celebrating these leather traditions that have been passed on to us. Many have given their lives for us to be where we are today. My commitment is first to Guy and our relationship. I really believe that the grass is NOT greener on the other side and that family means everything to me. My mom and dad were together for over fifty years and Guy also comes from a family with strong roots. We celebrate that commitment. My second commitment is to our communities that I strive to serve. Compassion is shown by how inclusive we try and be. Guy and I enjoy meeting people from all walks of life and try and go out of our way to meet and talk with people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It costs nothing to show kindness to everyone and the benefits we receive are enormous. By adding a little joy to someone else's life makes us happier people. We believe in spreading the joy of life.

Outlooks: Will you compete at IML (International Mr. Leather) in Chicago?

Bo: Yes. I want to represent Montréal the best way I can. We have received a huge amount of emotional support from everyone in the LGBT community and it is with great humility that I go to represent this great city to the world.

Outlooks: Thanks Bo and Guy and good luck at IML in May 2006. ▼

Daniel Wylie is active in the HIVMIDS [illegible] Michael [illegible] is a desperate HouseBear who just can't stop dancing and a [illegible] Mr. Edmonton Leather. They are now happily married and live and write at Montréal.

Photos Courtesy of Daniel Wylie

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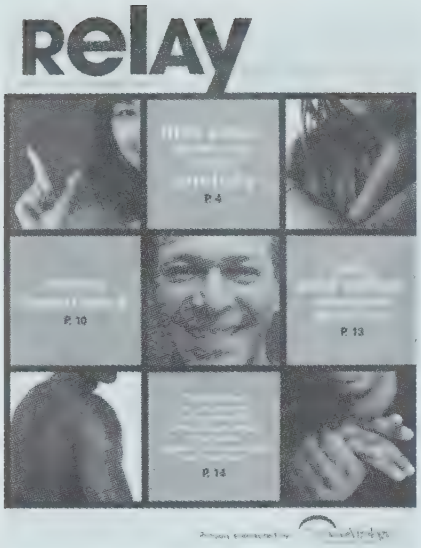

Magazine Informs and Educates

By David King

In a healthcare system already burdened with decreased providers, long waits and the near-extinction of the family doctor, its easy to rush appointments without 'registering' all the necessary health information we require, whether you're the patient or the caregiver. While some clinic-weary Canucks try to snag independent physicians like they are stock market commodities, those stuck in the waiting room cattle-call are increasingly at risk of being cow-tipped as healthy healthcare ticks away on an egg timer. Let's face it: the political debate over private and public healthcare can't change the length of the queue for those already standing in line.

In the world of HIV/AIDS, cancer, or any life-threatening health challenges, getting the facts on maintaining and prolonging life is more important than ever as new and experimental treatments become available. Without a thorough check-up, patients can be easily duped by quick-fix prescriptions and a longer chat with the pharmacist than the average physician. For obvious reasons, doctors specializing in a patient's life-altering symptoms are more and more preferred, and as specialist check-ups are scheduled months in advance, the time in between visits can present a plethora of unforeseen problems if flexibility and interim assistance are nowhere to be found.

A year ago, a bilingual, quarterly magazine surfaced to assist patients with HIV/AIDS. Available for free with a current circulation of approximately 10,000, *Relay* – The Facts About HIV + You is published by Parkhurst Publishing, whose handful of medical publications cater primarily to Canadian physicians. As Corporate Editorial Director, Susan Usher mentions, *Relay* (or Relais) is unique in addressing topical content from the patient's perspective, written not only by doctors, but by health professionals of all calibres who work with HIV/AIDS patients.

"These are health professionals on the ground working with Person With AIDS," describes Usher. "A lot of the content is meant to be an extension of the time patients have with their doctors—how to take treatment properly, for example, or how to approach nutrition and supplements."

As Usher outlines, little is still known about HIV meds even after nearly three decades, and as new PWHAs emerge, *Relay* is an opportunity to serve their needs alongside longer-term PWHAs, the latter who may not have enough preventive measures in place when, for example, cocktail meds are not working or are no longer effective. By using a language that marries lay understanding with medical vocabulary (a glossary is included), *Relay* aims to arm patients with not only the self-sustaining benefits of independent research, but also with communication tools for their medical visits.

"Everything is written originally by a medical person," says Usher. "What we do at Parkhurst is to make sure that everything is presented well and stays on a line that is jargon free, yet written intelligently for readers who know a lot about it and those who don't".

Following submissions by HIV/AIDS health care contributors, *Relay's* editorial board (a team of carefully selected, top medical experts) follows up on copyediting and editorial to ensure all material is, in-turn, fact-checked and properly compiled. It's a level of responsibility that Usher adds is matched by the board's blend of physicians and members of the HIV/AIDS Community itself, striking an ethical balance in the magazine's control and viewpoints.

Not to say *Relay*, like other magazines, isn't without its share of controversy. In one recent letter to the editor, for example, a pair of critical Ontario readers was quick to express anger over a Fall 2005 article that included comments such as "HIV is no longer deadly" and implied lifestyle changes were necessary in order to be 'a compliant PWHA'.

Perhaps more importantly, however, are the ethics behind the magazine's financial support: it is no hidden secret that *Relay* is, in fact, funded by pharmaceutical giant Abbott Industries. Usher mentions measures are in place to keep transparency in light of that 'pharma' connection.

"There are a lot of rules that govern this sort of hands-off relationship with Abbott," says Usher. "As funders, they [Abbott] benefit from providing something good and beneficial to the public that helps eliminate the barriers of treatment. It's very clear they have no say over what is written in the publication, and the physicians and community people on the editorial board work together to find that balance."

Along with carefully preserving the magazine's professional and ethical responsibilities, Usher adds that *Relay* includes comment cards for those who want to express concerns, along with critical issues that they would like to see appear in the magazine's upcoming issues. As response comes in, she appears both responsive to and excited by readers' suggestions for upcoming stories.

However critical its readership, *Relay* appears to reach a grateful following of those doing their own HIV homework, with continued submissions by contributors leading the pack in Canada's war on HIV/AIDS. With plans for increased circulation and an eventual website with .pdf downloads, Usher mentions the magazine should become easy to access within the next few months. Currently circulating in doctor's offices and HIV/AIDS service organizations, any informed reader interested in HIV/AIDS might see it as, at the very least, an alternative option to the out-of-date *Maclean's Magazine* they are stuck with in the waiting room. ▼

David King is a freelance journalist currently residing in Edmonton. A writer, performer and director, he is the co-founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions.

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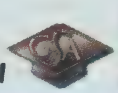

PHOTO © ROBERT LALIBERTE

GAY SPRINGBREAK IN FORT LAUDERDALE

By Roy Heale

Beautiful, white sandy beaches, a warm blue ocean and sunshine are what make Ft. Lauderdale an idyllic vacation spot at any time of the year. Located on Florida's east coast, even the hottest days are tempered by gentle breezes coming from the Atlantic ocean.

Recently Ft. Lauderdale has grown in popularity as a GLBT vacation destination and is now recognised worldwide as a gay-friendly resort. There are several hundred gay-owned and operated businesses providing a multitude of options for the gay traveller. With a host of bed and breakfasts, resorts, bars, clubs, restaurants and shops this ocean city has become renowned as a gay mecca separate from its neighbours Miami, South Beach and Key West. From the blue waves and white surf of the beaches, to the Florida Everglades, Ft. Lauderdale offers sea, sun, shopping, arts and entertainment for the discriminating gay vacationer.

Just a short walk from the ocean is a vast network of canals and marinas which has earned Ft. Lauderdale the nickname *the Venice of America*. Here you will find spectacular millionaires' homes with sprawling lawns down to the waterfront and yachts which are floating homes just waiting to venture out onto the open seas. The water taxi is transportation for the locals, which also provides a canal tour with a glimpse at the lifestyles of the rich and famous. For just five dollars you can ride all day from one end of the canal system to the other, with plenty of sights to see and visit along the way. There are no gondolas here, but it is worth planning a whole day to tour these canals, or just use the water taxi as a means to go for dinner at a waterfront restaurant.

Between the ocean and the canals is where you will find a community rich with gay guesthouses, bed and breakfasts and resorts. This is the perfect neighbourhood to stay in and be close to everything the city has to offer. Although the bars, nightclubs and restaurants are close by, a rental car is a must. They are very affordable and can be rented at the airport or through your hotel concierge and they make it very easy to move around and visit the many attractions available to the gay traveller.

Located three blocks from the ocean and a short walk to the gay beach is the Flamingo Inn Amongst the Flowers, a European style boutique hotel with tropical island luxury. We highly recommend this affordable and upscale gay resort as a perfect home base to enjoy all that Ft. Lauderdale has to offer. Every room and suite has been recently remodeled and renovated with comfortable four poster beds and modern bathrooms. The courtyard includes splashing fountains, a large swimming pool and comfortable deck chairs with sun shades for the very hottest time of the day. Enjoy a relaxing massage poolside, simply bask in the sun, or enjoy a good book in this tranquil retreat. The full bar Happy Hour, complete concierge services and ample parking are added benefits. Perhaps the greatest amenity that the Flamingo has to offer is the friendly and helpful staff who will ensure that you have everything you need for the perfect vacation and provide all the requisite knowledge about the local community. The Flamingo Inn strives for and achieves perfection in gay accommodations.

Located about a ten minute drive from the beaches is the township of Wilton Manors, which is the gay community of Ft. Lauderdale akin to Greenwich Village in New York. Home to over forty gay businesses and sparked by the highly successful George's Alibi video bar and café, Wilton Manors has everything to offer in shopping and entertainment. After your first visit you will probably find yourself returning to try the different restaurants and bars as part of your evening pleasure. Dorothy's Café, Hamburger Mary's, Chardees, Tropics and Simply Delish are just a few of the cuisine options that are sure to please in this quaint and charming gay-friendly southern Florida community. Shopping in Wilton Manors also offers plenty of variety at Bottoms and Tops, Gay Mart, Miguel's, Zoo Two 4 Shoes and Zoo Two Clothing Company just to name a few of the fun boutiques. A trip to Ft. Lauderdale is not complete without some time enjoying the village of Wilton Manors for a gay community experience.

Without a doubt, Ft. Lauderdale is best known for its beautiful white sand beach with the calm, clear blue ocean which stretches for miles. Not surprisingly, with a large gay resident and tourist population there are three recognised gay beaches. These can be found in the north, at 18th Street, centrally located at Sebastion Street, and in the south at Dania Beach, with the central beach probably being the most popular and close to most of the gay accommodations. These gay areas are easily identified by the rainbow umbrella sun shades and the sunbathers they attract. With beach volleyball and other ball games, people-watching in these areas can be a most enjoyable way to pass a hot sunny afternoon with cool dips in the ocean when it gets too hot. There are also plenty of cafés overlooking the beach with spectacular views to enjoy when food becomes a priority. This makes for the idyllic part of any well-earned vacation.

The Florida climate affords year-round vacations, but spring is probably the most temperate and popular time of year to visit. The *Ft. Lauderdale Pridefest 06*

Continued opposite

from previous

takes place March 11 and 12, and claims to be the largest Pride Festival in Florida. With entertainers and events, this weekend is planned for residents and tourists alike to show their pride. The Florida Gay Rodeo Association will host its inaugural *Sunshine Stampede Rodeo—The Cowboys Are Coming!* for the first time this year April 7 to 9! In addition to rodeo events at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie (just outside of Ft. Lauderdale), there will be a Country and Western Dance, Pool Party, Wilton Manors Nightlife Tour and a Southernmost Hoedown in Ft. Lauderdale. For anyone who has experienced a gay rodeo, this is certain to be a popular gathering on the IGRA circuit.

Finding your way around is easy with either a *Columbia Fun Map* or the local publication *Hotspots!* Both are readily available, handy-sized reference guides for everything that's gay in this Florida beach paradise. There is also a very comprehensive website called *The Naked Concierge* which bares the truth about Ft. Lauderdale's gay community and is the travel information source for preparation of the perfect escape to the sun and surf before you leave home. Getting there is easy with WestJet offering direct flights from Canada's major cities and connecting flights from smaller airports. An added bonus for travellers are the new WestJet planes, with leather seats and live seatback satellite televison for your comfort and entertainment on the long journey. Rest assured, your flight from the north will be rewarded with southern Florida's gay welcome, which is second to none! ▼

HELPFUL WEBSITES

pridesouthflorida.org

fgra.org

TheFlamingoResort.com

funmaps.com

HotspotsMagazine.com

nakedconciergefortlauderdale.com

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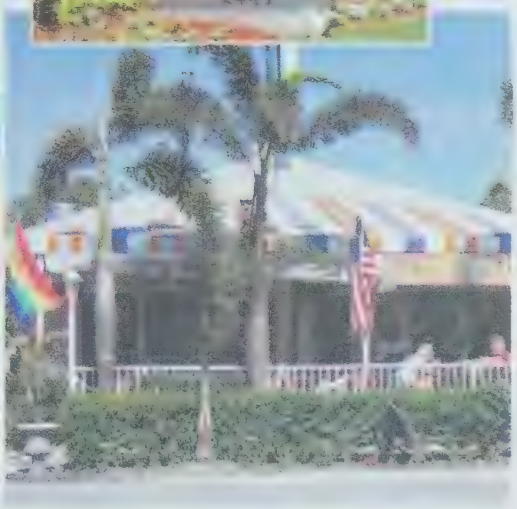

Photos featuring the restaurants and bars of Wilton Manors

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Joe Average

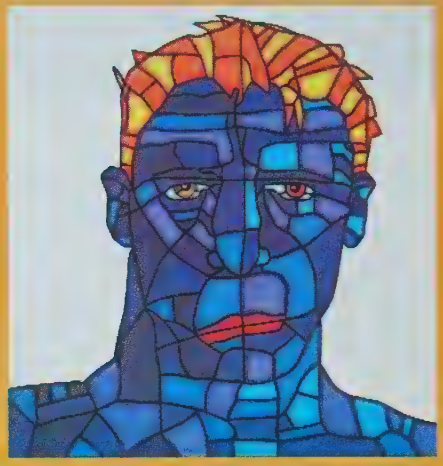
Born in Victoria, British Columbia, Joe began signing his artwork *Joe Average* when he was 19. His pop art has captured the attention of international art critics, royalty, celebrities, and the public. His work is a visionary kaleidoscope of colour, creativity and compassion.

Living with HIV for the past 22 years, the self taught Joe Average has earned international recognition as an advocate for AIDS, an artist and a noted philanthropist. His work can be seen on a 1996 Canadian Stamp that was also the conference image for the 1996 XI International Conference on AIDS.

Joe Average donates twice as much work to charity as he sells. In 1998 Joe was recognized by the Governor General of Canada with the *Caring Canadian Award*. The City of Vancouver bestowed him with a *Civic Merit Award* in 1994. He was the recipient of a 1993 *Jessie Award* and has been officially presented to Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana at Rideau Hall. His work can be seen at **JoeAverageArt.com**

HONOKOHAU BEACH

FLORAL FATIGUE



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OUTLOOKS

Each month we feature a GLBT photographer or artists' work to showcase Canadian artistic talent. If you would like to be included please send samples of your work to main@outlooks.ca

Owners J.P. (Left) & Gilles

Zig's Turns Nine

By Outlooks Staff

Some of us may have been fortunate enough to drive across Canada and witness the stunning beauty of the northern Ontario countryside. But did anyone stop in Sudbury, population 200,000, to visit the very popular local gay bar Zig's? If not you probably missed the number one gay tourist attraction in the region and the most popular place for the local community to gather. In our smaller towns and communities often the local gay bar is the only place to socialise and almost always plays a major role in supporting the GLBT population in the surrounding region. Zig's bar is no exception for residents of northern Ontario and this year it is celebrating nine years of operation.

Back in the summer of 1997, J.P. Pelletier and Gilles "Zig" Gervais took the bold step of opening a neighbourhood gay bar instead of buying a house together. Today their bar is the only one in this region of northern Ontario. Now in its second location, it has grown to six thousand square feet and hosts numerous community events and fund-raisers. After thirteen years together J.P. and Gilles were married in their own bar amongst a gathering of their friends.

Recently *Outlooks* caught up with the two owners whilst they were digging themselves out from a February Ontario blizzard and they took a welcome rest from shoveling snow to answer our questions and talk about their success.

Kink Night 05 at Zig's

Outlooks: As partners in life and partners in business do you find it difficult to maintain a balance between the two?

Zig: Believe it or not, it has worked out very, very well. We kind of live and work 24/7.We just have this kind of relationship where we complement each other very well.

Outlooks: Sudbury is not the location that most people might have chosen back in 1997 to open a gay bar or establishment, so how did it come about?

Zig: Most of the bars that had been here for the decade prior to that time were hidden away and there was no signage or anything. We were the first ones to open a bar that was very visible with signage and everything and I think it was time for that. There isn't any competition because it's been proven over and over that there isn't enough clientele for two bars in a city this size.

Outlooks: Back in those early days were you concerned about the possibility of homophobia and maybe gay-bashing in a smaller Ontario community?

Zig: Well, we always were concerned but if you're going to do anything about that kind of attitude you have to face it and stand up to it. That's why we decided to put the sign on our establishment and "come out" into the open. We were the first bar to do that here. There were some difficult times but in Canada we're a society that gets more and more accepting as time goes by—especially with the advent of same-sex marriage across the country.

Outlooks: How did you spread the word and attract customers in those early days?

Zig: It's a small community! We got a liquor license on the Tuesday morning, opened the doors and we were packed on the same evening.

Outlooks: Was it difficult in the early days financially to keep it going, as is so often the case for new businesses?

Zig: We did O.K. Because we did all the renovations ourselves, it wasn't as expensive as it would have been if we had hired contractors for everything. But the first few years were quite good until the non-smoking law kicked in, and since 9/11, our insurance has increased dramatically by thousands of dollars. It makes it tougher.

Outlooks: Recently you were married in your own gay bar after being together for thirteen years. How did it make you feel?

Zig: Well, it was just something we felt we needed to do. We had planned to do it before it became law across Canada and I think our wedding was just about a week or two before the law passed Federally. We had the right to and we decided to go for it. It matters with an estate and a will that could be contested but once it is your spouse then no one can challenge it.

Outlooks: Now that you are advertising on a local mainstream radio station does that bring you a mixed straight and gay clientele?

Zig: It's knocking down homophobia. We're not actually saying on the radio that we are a gay bar per se—you can read between the lines, but the city knows it's a gay bar. Our slogan is "Where the unusual is the usual; the most outrageous bar in Sudbury". It hasn't done that much to change us but we were heading that way where we were getting a young female straight clientele coming in mostly for the music. All the bars happen to be in the core and that's where we are.

Outlooks: It's not easy to run a gay bar or business, so to what do you attribute your longevity and success? What do you think you have done right?

Zig: Persistence... persistence. After the first four years we moved our bar to its present location. We went from two thousand to six thousand square feet. It was a big chance, we took the big step. The City gave us a really, really hard time with permits etc. I believe it was either homophobia or incompetence at City hall. I was there daily. Persistence.

Outlooks: Persistence and deep pockets?

Zig: Not so much deep pockets as the constant persistence to make it happen.

Outlooks: What makes Zig's a community bar?

Zig: Being the type of bar that it is. It's one of a kind. Plus we have a monopoly in all of northern Ontario as the place where gay people can go and be themselves without being harassed. We are straight friendly but we're first and foremost for the GLBT community. We've always held many community fund-raising activities right from the very beginning.

Outlooks: When you started nine years ago were there any problems finding a landlord who would allow a gay bar to open on their premises?

Zig: The first time around we were quite straight looking and when the landlord found out it was going to be a gay club he just about laughed—but at that point, he didn't have much of a choice as we had already signed the lease. Then when we did decide to move to our present location we actually hired a real estate agent so they negotiated the price and the terms, and the new landlord almost freaked when he found out that it was going to be gay bar. But we found out he was a clean freak and we showed him our existing bar and he could see we kept a very, very clean and well-run establishment and he was happy. He was a little nervous renting to a gay bar but he stuck his neck out and now we're the largest tenant in his building.

Outlooks: Over the course of these nine years have you noticed the attitude changing in Sudbury towards the Gay community?

Zig: Yes it is. Slowly changing. Same-sex marriage being allowed has a lot to do with this in a positive way, especially with young people.

Outlooks: If you had to do it all over again is there one important thing you would do differently?

Zig: No. I don't think we would change anything.

Outlooks: What one piece of important advice would you give to young gay entrepreneurs who would like to open a gay bar in their hometown?

Zig: If you're going to go ahead, then before you actually open your doors do it incognito. If you go out and say that you are going to open a gay bar then you might run into a lot of trouble. But once you have your lease, like we did, there's not much anyone can do. I suggest you remain incognito until you have your space and liquor license for the least amount of hassle.

Outlooks: Is there a Zig's anniversary message you would like to send to *Outlooks* readers across Canada?

Zig: We're proud to be Canadians, able to have the right to get married legally and be in a country where we can open a gay bar and it's legal to be gay. We're all lucky we live in Canada. We thank the northern Ontario community for their support over the years and hope to see some of your readers come and visit us as they tour Ontario in the coming months. We're the best and the only gay pit stop in the region! ▼

Zig's Bar is located at 54 Elgin street, Sudbury, Ontario and can be reached at (705) 673 3873 or visit: zigs-bar.com Join them for Mardi Gras on March 10 and Zig's Next Top Model Search on March 31.

Youth - It's Time To Act

By Sean McLennan

Even though we all know that HIV and AIDS is a disease that can be contracted by anyone, the virus' mode of transmission make men who have sex with men (MSM) a particularly high risk demographic. If you look at the history of the infection, MSM do comprise the majority of infections, which makes it difficult to combat the perception that HIV/AIDS is a "gay disease". But if you look at recent trends that is no longer true; in Canada in 2003, straight males and females accounted for about as many new infections as MSM.

In fact, today, it is probably more accurate to characterize HIV/AIDS as a "youth disease". According to UN statistics, about half of the new infections in the world are in young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. In Canada, youth fifteen to twenty-nine account for just over twenty-seven percent of positive tests between 1985 and 2004—the fact that people can live for years before acquiring symptoms or getting tested suggests that even a higher percentage of HIV-infected individuals contracted the disease before age thirty. These facts have lead the United Nations Association in Canada to initiate "It's Time to Act: Mobilizing Young Canadians around HIV/AIDS", a peer education project aiming to "educate and empower youth between the ages of twenty to twenty-nine around HIV/AIDS and social determinants of health".

The two year project began last July and is divided into two primary phases with four stated goals:

1. SAFER SPACES—Creation of supportive and safer spaces where we can receive and exchange information on HIV/AIDS, and explore values, misconceptions and issues related to the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS.

2. POLICY AND ACTION PLANNING—Develop, publish and disseminate goals and recommendations on the Canadian response to HIV/AIDS.

3. EMPOWERMENT AND ACTION—Increase our personal and collective capacities to identify needs within our own communities and commit to participate in effective responses.

4. GLOBAL COMMITMENT—Increase our understanding of the global HIV/AIDS crisis and commit to participate in efforts to address the crisis.

The first year is focused primarily on action—getting out into youth communities to disseminate information about HIV and to gather information from young people to understand how they think about and relate to the issue. This will be done through a number of activities, including "twinning" partnerships with youth in other countries where the HIV crisis is more apparent; a national youth survey; regional Canadian youth forums—all culminating in participation in the XVI International Conference on AIDS in Toronto in August of this year.

Once that phase is complete, the intent is to collate the information gathered and use it as the basis for a number of documents including a youth declaration on HIV/AIDS, directed at governments and other organizations. Hopefully, the information can also be used in other ways, such as better targeting educational materials and programs.

A guiding principle of "It's Time to Act" is that education is more powerful when it comes from peers. To that end, UNAC has assembled a ten person National Youth Team with each member assigned to different Canadian region. One of the biggest responsibilities of each of the National Youth Teams is to organize and execute a youth forum in their region—by this summer forums will have occurred in Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Halifax, St. John's and Iqaluit. We spoke to Sophie Wertheimer, who is responsible for organizing Calgary's youth forum, which will take place April 7th and 8th.

Sophie has put together an innovative program that draws together a diversity of people, perspectives and approaches to address AIDS awareness in a more engaging and meaningful way. There will, of course, be some basics about HIV prevention, but also workshops led by individuals whose lives have been touched by HIV in different ways: for example Sanelisiwe Dube, a student from Zimbabwe, and Whiley Eagle from the "Tipi of Courage" project at the Red Cross. There will be a presentation of the documentary "A Closer Walk" and an art workshop facilitated by Wednesday Lupypciw, a BFA student at ACAD—and perhaps most importantly, an action-planning session to teach and innovate practical ways of making a difference locally and globally. In this respect, UNAC and the National Team Members hope that the youth forums will reach out beyond the participants of the forums. Sophie expects that between fifty and sixty young people will participate in the Calgary forum.

Sophie Wertheimer herself is originally from Montreal and is currently working on her PhD related to HIV/AIDS through the Faculty of Communication and Culture at the University of Calgary. She became drawn to the issue during her undergraduate degree at Concordia University, which has quite an extensive program in HIV/AIDS related issues. Through her interest, she volunteered in several capacities and started asking questions about portrayals and perceptions of sexuality in our culture and media.

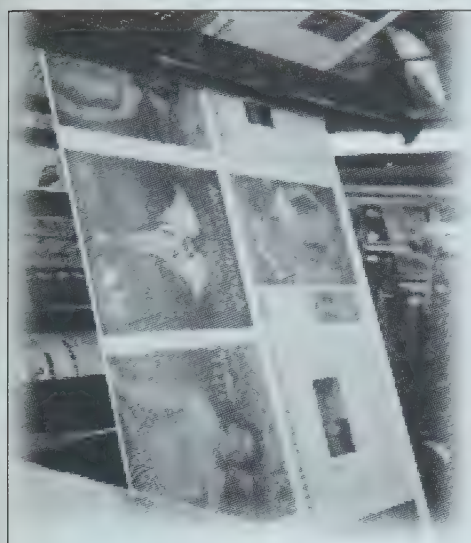
Sophie says that the response from the Calgary community has been tremendous and surprising, given the conservative reputation Alberta has (especially after the last election!). Even the rejections she's received are sincere in their regret and come with wishes that the program be successful, she reports.

It is estimated that there are about 56,000 HIV-infected individuals living in Canada today (approximately thirty percent of which don't know they are infected). This is about a twentieth of, say, the number of people living with diabetes, which HIV is often compared to these days with respect to it being a "chronic", not "terminal" disease. Certainly, it is not as serious a problem in Canada as it is in other parts of the world. Legitimately one might ask why Canadians need to worry so much about HIV.

There are many answers to this question, not the least of which is that Canadians cannot live in isolation from the rest of the world, and HIV/AIDS is probably the most serious health crisis the global community has ever faced. But perhaps more to the point with respect to HIV/AIDS being a "youth disease", HIV infection, unlike diabetes or cancer, is practically 100 per cent preventable through education. The avenues of transmission are not mysterious; they are well known and we have the power to stop it in its tracks right now, today. We don't need to wait for some medical breakthrough at some unspecified point in the future—we just need to transmit knowledge more efficiently than the virus.

If you are a young person, twenty to twenty-nine years old, and are interested in participating in Calgary's youth forum, or if you are interested in contributing in any capacity to "It's Time to Act", please get in contact with Sophie Wertheimer at youthforumcalgary@yahoo.ca. If you would like more information about the National Program, you can visit their website: http://www.aidsactionsida.org ▼

Sean McLennan is a native Calgarian with (nearly) a PhD in Linguistics and Cognitive Science from Indiana University, where he was heavily involved in GLBT education. He currently has a full time gig in software for mobile technology.



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HOROSCOPE

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb? Forgetaboutit compadres! Pushy Mars will bump and grind into several planets and cause a rumpus. Let's give a surly growl and come Out any way we damn please. Lamb is on the menu.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Have a few things on your mind? Reaching a boiling point? You have too many strong opinions that need to be released and expressed. Luckily, Mars will open the floodgates and enable you to make a major wave. Expect things to reach global proportions. Say it loud, proud and queer. Don't be shy and retiring this March, proud Ram. It's not your style anyway.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Money will take on new meaning and hold greater sway over your actions. You will be especially cognizant of the value of your possessions as you plot and plan your eventual retirement. So how greedy will you be this merry March, queer Bull? Everything and anything will seem to be up for grabs and even then, enough may not be enough. Gee, sounds pretty good to me!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Mars in your own sign will give you great energy, a powerful presence and the opportunity to expand your circle of acquaintances. You are the center of attention, the "must have" on everyone's list and the strobe light in the room of dim bulbs. Shine on, comrade. Pink Twins will be in their element in March. Err, is that animal, vegetable or mineral...?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Your innate psychic ability will rev into overdrive this March and prescient pink Crabs won't seem to know how to harness all the good vibes. Don't worry about it, cousin. Mars will create light and all you have to do is rub on the suntan oil and reflect in it. Keep your eye on the prize, continue to do good gay deeds and the luck will follow. Or so I am told....

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions will seek connection and companionship all through March. Something flirtatious and fun. But not just anyone will do. Seek those whom you can trust and who know you well. Mars jazzes you up into overdrive and you can be even more overbearing and pushy than usual. The usual crowd knows this about you and loves you anyway. Thank goodness.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

March will be the month for meaningful career progress. Queer Virgins have been waiting patiently on the professional sidelines for the powers-that-be to bestow a crumb or two from the executive dining table. Time is up. Now you are too hungry to wait for their cheap charity. Mars sez storm the barricades and take no prisoners ... unless they can promote you.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Take to the streets and make sure that those streets are in faraway exotic locations. March will bring travel and adventure, gay Libra, so pack your bags, buy your ticket and get going. You will have international influence and global impact. If money and time are short, spread your cheer cyberly or among a few exotic neighborhood compadres. Spread yourself thin ... like butter.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

It may still be officially winter but Mars is hot, hot, hot and increases the urge to merge. Someone we know will be heating up the scene this March. Someone we know will be sizzling the bacon at every meal. Who is that sexy beast? Oh, let's guess. Proud Scorps should harness and exploit this zesty energy. By next month you could be spent and bankrupt....once again.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Relationships will hit a high note this March. Gay Archers who want a bit of pepper in their partner will get their wish. Single Sages who seek a special mate will find several possibilities. The point is that you needn't be alone if you don't want to be. Not only do you give off powerful animal vibes, you also seem to know what turns others on. Where is that switch again?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

If you begin to take a sidelong look in the mirror, you may decide to get into ship shape in time for cruise season. Pink Caps will have greater energy reserves this March thanks to frenetic Mars—and can improve on perfection. Be active and don't be lazy. Burn your excess oil at the health club now so you can burn your candle at both ends in the summer. Ouch!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

How much fun can an Aqueerian have this March? Quite a bit, if randy Mars has anything to say about it. Anything you decide to do that is creative, inspirational and zany will prove to be profitable as well. You can tap into your gay muse for your various amusements. So, don't be a couch potato, pal. Before you know it, the planets will move on and you will "spudder" to a stop.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies won't be able to stand their drab home environment any longer. Good. This will be the time for refurbishing and renovating your home surroundings. Or maybe you will decide to just move. It is also a good time to reach out and possibly repair long standing family issues. Offer advice but don't guarantee or compromise. It's a new month and a new you. March ahead!

By Shaun Proulx

Time this month for what has fast become the social event of the winter season: *SNAP!* Actually, make that 5x*SNAP!*; this year's special title reflects a milestone in the annual fundraiser for the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT).

For art-whores, photography aficionados and scenesters alike, *SNAP!* is now marked in social calendars in indelible ink. The glitzy night is comprised of a juried photo competition and both live and silent auctions of stunning visual art. The 2005 edition raised over $60,000 for ACT, and, after attending myself, I left (drunk) and with a sense that we are witnessing the evolution of what could well become the next Fashion Cares in Toronto, particularly in terms of the event's contribution to our arts, social and fundraising scenes.

One great sign of success so far: this year *SNAP!* is already moving into a much larger venue than its former home. The National Ballet School on Jarvis Street has donated their glam new space, making this *SNAP!* the first large publicly accessible event at the school, and increasing capacity by 300 people.

Co-chair Nelson French tells me this year is going to be over the top. About eighty pieces have been curated for the live auction, up from just over fifty last year, with a third of the work curated from fine art photographers, another third from emerging photographers, and a final third comprised of commercial and fashion photos. The fashion category is a new category for the night, and as it happens to have been curated by my beau, I can offer this sneak peek for those of you with a passion for fashion: Work landed includes a donation by the renowned Barb Cole; her photography is collected world-wide and sells in the five-figure range. Also watch for a stunning shot of Canadian supermodel Daria Werbowy (Prada, Chanel, Lancome) by Alvaro Goveia; this never-before-seen outtake from a fashion magazine cover shoot will be hot when it hits the auction block.

Other notable names sure to strike heated bidding include Chris Nichols (he shot the racy and controversial Bollywood Cares campaign for Fashion Cares last year), Eldon Garnet, Chris Curreri, Tony Hauser, Rafael Goldchain, Michael Alago (who has donated the smokin' 'Stephen At Dusk'), and a huge piece by Jesse Boles (Boles donation last year was one of the top auction draws, bringing in $3,200.00).

Organizers have also confirmed that Juno-nominated musician/artist/filmmaker Sarah Slean (her video "Day One" has had heavy rotation on MuchMoreMusic) has donated a piece.

Even if you're not in the market for new art, go anyway; everyone else is.

(Tickets to this March 12th photographic extravaganza are selling well; be sure you grab yours. They're $40 – just call 416-340-9255. By the time you read this, the entire live auction line-up should be available for viewing at **snap-toronto.com**, or visit SPIN Gallery starting March 9th at 1100 Queen Street West for three full days of public viewings.) ▼

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SNAP! The People
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Shaun Proulx is a Toronto writer who contributes to The Globe and Mail, is publisher and editor of GayGuideToronto.com, and a feature contributor and columnist at iCocktail Confessions, with Xtra.

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Running Out

By Jesse Trautmann

If you question or doubt whether running is an actual sport, Ben Gordon is ready to defend it to the ground. Many people argue that it is more of a pastime than a sport but Gordon says it can be very competitive. Running a marathon involves great strength, endurance and skill where you have to focus on everything right down to your breathing. "You have to know when to hold back and when to give it 110 per cent."

Gordon, twenty-one, is currently attending the University of Western Ontario in London on an athletic scholarship. Last year he participated in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon and the Tucson Marathon all the way down in Arizona. For such events Gordon has a strategy of staying close behind someone "pacing with them until I notice when they begin to tire, then I go in for a quick pass." At the Scotiabank Marathon he ran fourty-two and a half kilometers in three hours thirty-five minutes behind the winning time of three hours four minutes.

In between marathons he cross trains as running is such a high impact sport. He makes sure to switch up his exercise routine from biking to swimming or anything that works his muscles in a different way.

Wearing the proper gear is essential; a fact Gordon learned the hard way. He suffered from serious shin splints (a painful inflammation of the muscles surrounding the shins) and "was off my feet for three days," he said. He attributes it to running while wearing improper footwear, specifically, shoes that didn't have proper support. Instead of going for the most expensive brand, you should go into a store like the Running Room (runningroom.com) and "let them assess your gait cycle," the motion of your feet and the way they hit the ground, and then they can tell you what footwear will suit you best. Adidas are his shoe of choice because they're light and have an amazing cooling system called ClimaCool.

Balancing school and running can be difficult and he admits he doesn't run everyday. If he doesn't run for a few days, however, he feels it both physically and mentally, like something is missing. For people who are less motivated he suggests running with a friend especially when working on cardio by running at a pace at which you can chat. But during a marathon it's every man for himself and Gordon gets into a zone where "it becomes a competition between me and the pavement".

Adam Wiendels, a friend of Gordon's, can vouch for this because he competed against him last June in the Bell City Chase across Toronto.

When Wiendels started running he would go for two kilometers and have to take the bus back. Now he claims to be able to keep up with Gordon but considers himself more of a casual runner. He uses running as more of a therapeutic outlet but takes it seriously in his own way. It gives him alone time to "think, work out the day and release stress".

He is also a smoker, which is his other stress reliever, and is definitely not something one would expect from a runner.

"Jaws dropped like they were personally offended," he said about peoples reactions when has a cigarette while stretching before a race, "I get dirty looks. Oh well," he finished with a chuckle. He has a pre-run smoke and one immediately after and although he knows this is bad for his health he claims it hasn't affected his performance yet.

Running takes a lot of perseverance but it's not all work and no play, Wiendels said. Once in a while he likes to throw on a shorts and a tight tank top to go running through the village where he gets looks and a few honks, which is always a good self-esteem boost.

A favourite event for Wiendels is the Pride and Remembrance Run held during Pride weekend because the proceeds go to good causes and it's the only race where he can be flirty with the other runners. "It's cool to see hundreds of gay boys not only into the hardcore partying during Pride," he said. Last year a hottie caught his eye so he purposely paced himself alongside the guy and it paid off because they met after the race and hit it off. Although the relationship was short lived, he is excited to participate in the Pride Run again this year. ▼

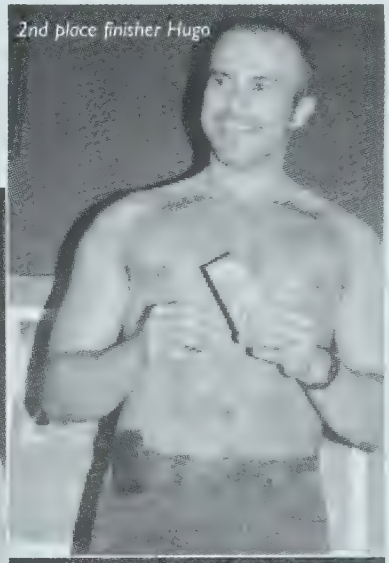
Jesse Trautmann is a 24 year old freelance writer living in Toronto. He is also a student of Journalism at Ryerson University. Check out his youth perspectives column in abOUT magazine and Turnstyle for Gay Guide Toronto.

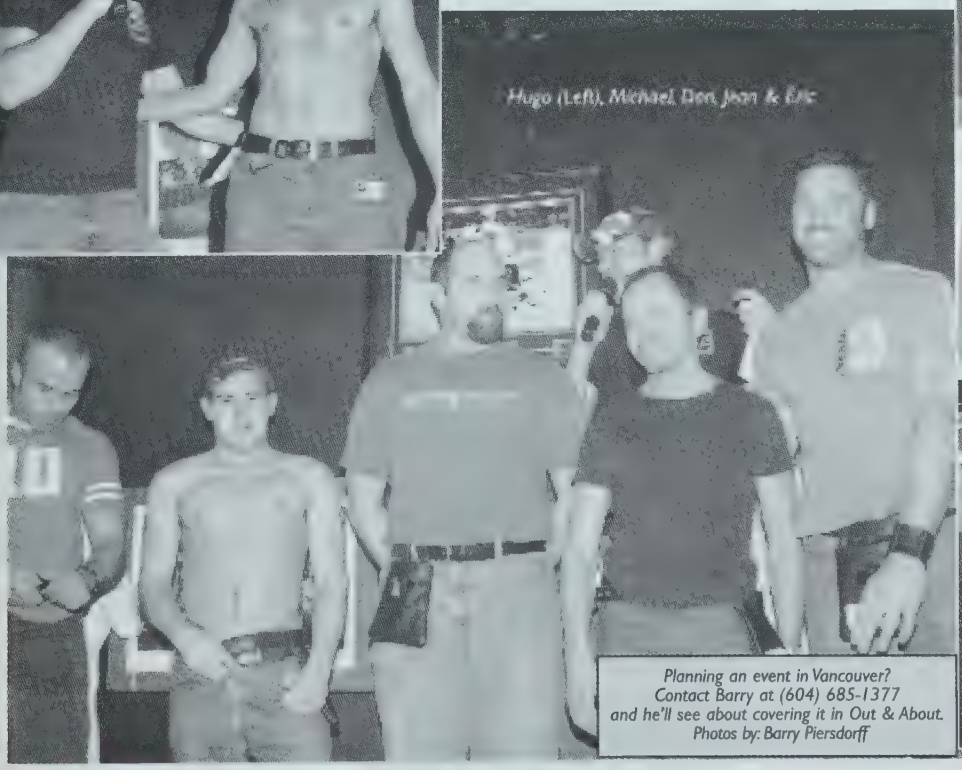
For more information about these running marathons visit the following sites. canadarunningseries.com,torontowaterfrontmarathon.com, priderun.org.

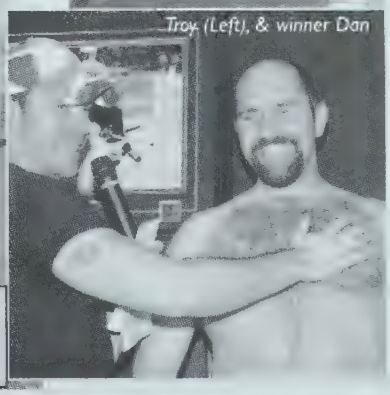
out & about VANCOUVER

Bare Chest Contest at Pumpjack

Troy (Left) show MC & Jurgen (Pumpjack bartender)


2nd place finisher Hugo


Hugo (Left), Michael, Don, Jean & Eric


Troy (Left), & winner Don

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Barry Piersdorff

Life After Porn

By Ralph Higgins

Why do we like porn? Collectively we spend millions of dollars every year on films, images, internet services and phone chat lines. We search for fantasy and find it, readily available, in magazines, movies and online. Displayed like wares in a sexual supermarket are the perfect pecs and jutting genitals that we have never had offered to us, nor achieved ourselves (lacking the genes and gym time!) Physical desire stripped down to bare essentials. No affection, but no rejection either. We can have our Blake and eat him too.... or, rather, have the shared illusion of eating him, for in porn, sex is a public act produced for mass consumption.

We love the beautiful and famous, all the while cherishing in our hearts a desire to discover their flaws. The same impulse that makes us surreptitiously glance at tabloid headlines while in grocery store checkout lines makes us hope that these beautiful, sexy people are not so different from us as they seem on the flickering TV screens in darkened bedrooms. Pornography gives the appearance of intimacy but little is actually revealed of the people who provide the bodies for our fantasies. Nudity can hide rather than reveal. Documentary films such as *Naked Fame* and *Sex/Life L.A. 2 Cycles of Porn* (both from **tlareleasing.com**) give us a chance to look behind the public images and gain a view of a more fully-fleshed out portrait of the men of porn.

Naked Fame, produced and directed by Christopher K. Long for *here! TV* follows the change of career path of Colton Ford as the forty-something porn star leaves the world of adult films to pursue his first love—singing. He and his partner, Blake Harper, have been living at the Live and Raw Hotel, an internet site where web cams are hooked up in all the rooms so the inhabitants, in addition to chatting online to paying customers, can also be viewed in the shower, in the kitchen, in the bedroom; the concept of privacy is non-existent. A life that more closely resembles that of a performing animal act. So Colton and Blake are moving out of the hotel, finishing up public appearances, and putting the world of adult films behind them.

Strongly supported by Blake and his parents (remarkably, his mother states that she thinks porn freed him to truly be himself) Colton confronts the reality of being an older male singer with the stigma of a porn background trying to break into the club/dance music business, unfortunately which prefers its dance divas to be young and female. Porn is truly a double-edged sword—he is well known because of his adult films but this same notoriety limits his appeal. His efforts are bedevilled at every step by his egomaniacal manager—another former porn star—Kyle, whose abrasive, controlling personality and blatant disregard for Blake, eventually lead to an acrimonious parting of the ways. At the end of the film, Colton, who has a demo record but no recording deal, returns to his former manager. While actively pursuing his dream, the singer has no assurance of success.

What shines most clearly throughout the film is the quality of Colton and Blake's relationship. We see small private moments when they are focused not on the camera or career, but just on each other.

SEX/LIFE L.A.2, Cycles of Porn is a follow up to Jochen Hick's film from 1997. Again we visit the Live and Raw Hotel—the same one where Colton and Blake were staying—but this time the hotel inhabitants are a collection of young men in their early twenties who are just beginning their work in porn. They all speak of future career plans and are confident that having done porn will be no obstacle for different work later. They strive to project an image of sexiness, but their cockiness is somehow contrived and unsettling. Even in their off camera moments—although with a webcam in every room, one is never off camera—they are still presenting an image for the filmmaker. Not necessarily examples of youthful beauty—some are skinny boys whose main attraction is their easy availability—they seek attention, exposure and money—or just simply a place to live. They perform sex for money, not pleasure. Several say that outside of their professional obligations, they have little interest in sex.

But even the money is an illusion. Porn stars Matt Bradshaw, Cole Tucker and Kevin Kramer reveal in interviews that film performers are paid a one-time fee (generally four or five hundred dollars) and sign over all other rights—photos, advertising images etc. Producers of films make big money, not performers. Those who take their adult film stardom too seriously set themselves up for disappointment, or worse. Matt Bradshaw established a name in the industry until drugs and hard living cost him even his bread and butter job as a hairdresser. John Garwood, interviewed in the original 1997 film, died the following year of an overdose.

One of the most controversial aspects to Jochen Hicks film is his investigation into bareback videos. Most producers, such as ChiChi LaRue, are vocal advocates of safer sex and their actors are forbidden to do bareback porn. But money talks—out loud!—especially to those porn actors who are already HIV+ and feel they have nothing to lose.

There are, however, survivors. Cole Tucker was forty-four years-old, and HIV+ when he started performing in porn. He had a plan—do films for a few years and then move on. He won lots of awards, made very successful films, but left it for a personal relationship. As he puts it, porn is a temporary job, not a career.

Another man who not only *made it* in porn but also made it out, is Colton Ford who has a focus and sense of identity beyond his body and sexual equipment. I contacted Colton to see how his life and career were going since the release of *Naked Fame*. While declining to give details, he did say that he has an album soon to be released following up on the success of *Signed, Sealed, Delivered* with Pepper McShay. His relationship with Blake is "still strong. Rock Hard!" And they both enthusiastically "support each other's passions."

We need illusion and fantasy in our lives but we also must distinguish clearly between the fantasy and real life. We cannot blame explicit films or images for low self-esteem or a susceptibility to addictions—those are personality traits that may be exacerbated by porn, but not created by it. Often it is the emotionally fragile who seek the specious approbation of exhibitionism.

Let us look to our own attitudes about physical appearance, sexuality and self-acceptance. As a culture, we too often assume physical beauty to be a sure sign of the gods' favour, that those who are famous and handsome have fewer problems and spend their days basking constantly in the warm sunshine of universal approval. These two films demonstrate quite a different reality. ▼

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

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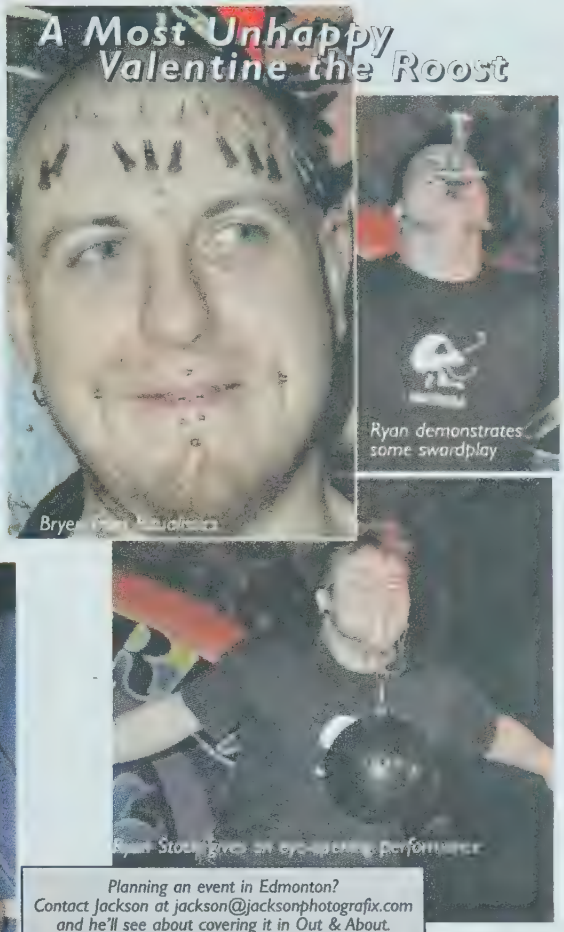
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CHARLIE DAVID FLIES TO NEW HEIGHTS

By Outlooks Staff

Hard work, perseverance and natural talent have all contributed to Charlie David's Canadian success story in the highly competitive entertainment industry. At the age of twenty-five Charlie has journeyed from his roots in a small Saskatchewan town to an accomplished acting career, making Vancouver his home town in Canada. Along the way he became the member of a boy band, a host for network TV shows, an international model, a published writer, a successful dramatic television actor and owner of his own production company. In a business world where it's often easier to play *straight*, Charlie came out early on in his career to be true to himself and in order to live his life without sacrificing for his career. Today, he is perhaps one of the most accomplished openly gay actors we can be proud to call Canadian.

Shortly Charlie is about to leave for Hawaii to begin taping the new season of *here! TV*'s gay gothic soap opera *Dante's Cove* where he co-stars as the likeable and lovesick Toby. Just completed are the first shows in his new role as the co-host of *Bump!* the popular travel show on Canada's GLBT network *OUTtv*. Travelling to Paris, Berlin, Sydney, Durban, Mexico and Rio for the current season of *Bump!* has kept him busy for the past few months and *Outlooks* recently caught up with him at his home in Vancouver while his feet were on the ground.

Bump! takes Charlie to a variety of exotic locales

Outlooks: When you were growing up in Saskatchewan what motivated you towards a career in the entertainment industry?

Charlie: I've always been a performer at heart. As a child I remember sitting my family down and making them watch endless little shows and dance routines in our living room, first in English and then in French. I just grew up interested in the drama and music programs which were offered at school, where I found a real home for myself. I dabbled in a lot of sports growing up, but definitely on the stage was where I felt most at home. I started touring with a group called *Saskatchewan Express* when I was about sixteen, and that was a wonderful experience to be with other actors who felt like me. I performed musical theatre in Western Canada and the Northern United States, and this was an opportunity that growing up in small communities doesn't always have to offer young actors.

Outlooks: How did that lead to your involvement in the boy band *4Now*?

Charlie: Oh my god, that's such a weird story! (laughs) When I was eighteen I was going to the first year of college in Victoria at the Canadian College for Performing Arts. An alumni from the college, Derek James—who had just got back from a tour with Disney—was visiting, and we met and he became my best friend. He went back to L.A. to audition for a boy band and when he was successful, the band lost one of their members—drama in the group, you know—and he phoned me and invited me to come and sing for them, if I could be in Malibu the next day for a photo shoot, and get started. I talked to my parents and the college directors who supported me in doing that, so I headed down there. The first incarnation of the group was very bizarre, as it was put together with "here's a condo, here's a car, here's money" but absolutely nothing going on—no performances. So after a month of walking around saying we were this band, but doing nothing, I got tired of it. I'm this creative person and it was ridiculous. We hadn't even sung together. Derek and I got together with the management and said, either we sing or we go and find something else to do. They said, "OK, go find something else!" So we had to put together our own band and start something, as we couldn't go back to Canada broke. We just went from there and began opening for people like *Destiny's Child*, *Snoop Dog* and *Rick Springfield*.

Outlooks: What made you realise that acting would become your next pursuit?

Charlie: You know, I've always had a preference for acting—it's my true passion. It's been like the monkey on my shoulder that won't shake loose (laughs). Ever since I was little I've played different musical instruments and sung, which is something that I enjoy, but it's not my first love, even though it presented me with opportunities workwise. The band was based in Vegas for a couple of years, and that led to some incredible opportunities, like the different bands we opened for, but we were having management problems, so we moved to L.A., as there was more opportunity to pursue acting there.

Outlooks: Obviously, the move worked, as you have appeared in *Dante's Cove*, *Godiva*, and *Terminal City*, to name a few. How did this lead to co-hosting the travel show *Bump!* On *OUTtv*?

Charlie: I had done some personality and hosting work before, and I love it. With *Bump!* the Toronto producers saw a tape of me on *Crash Test Mummy*, and then they saw my hosting reel on my website, called my agent and offered me the show. Actually I still haven't met them (laughs again).

Outlooks: Most people have the impression that any work involving travel is a glamorous position. Do you find this to be true or are there drawbacks?

Charlie: There are so many elements that are wonderful, to see these different cities, to see them from a gay and lesbian perspective, it's like an added bonus for me—to go and see what is interesting and relevant for us as a community. To see what's happening all over the world in the music scene, arts, celebrity and fashion or our history as a gay population—that's really fantastic. It is work though! There are prep days, or research on the plane from one place to another, on the internet prepping interviews. The days start early and end late in order to catch all aspects of the gay life in that city, including the nightlife. We want to show it all. We're burning on our last fumes, for sure, when we leave a city.

Continued opposite

from previous

Outlooks: Do you have any input on the cities that you go to?

Charlie: The producers have really been fantastic about letting me have some choice on the cities I go to. A lot of it is that they have ideas on the countries they want to cover, but sometimes the schedule changes due to local conditions, and we adapt to the different cultures, which makes it really like an adventure. We just got back from a Mexican tour in January, and the itinerary was constantly changing. When we arrived in Cancun we found out that our research wasn't accurate. As gays and lesbians, we like to know what is hot now and sometimes you've got to change your plans to adjust to that. You have to work your way down to the next layer of a city and really find its pulse.

Outlooks: What's your most interesting city or favourite city that you've been to so far?

Charlie: Wow! There have been some good ones. I think I would say Berlin. I loved Berlin because of the extreme dichotomy between Old World and New World. It's one of the most modern European cities in many ways, and yet there was an energy in the city that was just tangible. I felt Berliners were a people who were very proud and very strong, and yet still living with the aftermath of the war. I felt it, and I think there were people who feel apologetic, but don't know yet how to express that. Yet they are a different generation, so should they be apologetic? It's an amazing cultural city and they have a party scene that's second to none. I love any city that has a rich culture and one of my favorite aspects of the city was the fact that they have the only gay museum in the world. It covers the past two or three hundred years of gay culture and history. I think it is so important that we look at where we, as a community, have come from, and what men and women have done to get us where we are today.

Outlooks: Your co-host on *Bump!* is Shannon McDonough. Do you travel together to produce segments?

Charlie: We do different cities and I actually haven't met her yet (laughs). I feel like this isolated little island out here in Vancouver, while they are all out in Toronto. I meet up with the producer/director, sound and camera crew in whatever city we are covering and we just go! I've watched Shannon on some of her shows and other interviews she does. I think she's fun and very funny. I look forward to finally meeting her. I think some episode we should hook up and tag team it. That would be fun.

Outlooks: Do you think with the Olympics coming to Vancouver in 2010 there might be a *Bump!* segment to encourage GLBT attendance at the games?

Charlie: I think that would be fantastic! Vancouver is slated for a show this season, and we're just looking at dates right now. Vancouver is such a hot spot right now, and I just had a friend up from the States with *Genre* magazine who was covering it for a story. Everywhere I go in the world, people assume I'm from New York or L.A. They assume that's where you're from. I say Vancouver—that's my home, and they just go ga-ga. Either they've been there and they love it, or they have friends that have been and can't say enough good things about Vancouver. On Canada as a whole, I hear over and over again how people are impressed with our movement in gay rights, how pro-active we have been and our acceptance as equals.

Outlooks: How do you manage to schedule all your activities, acting roles and travel for *Bump!?*

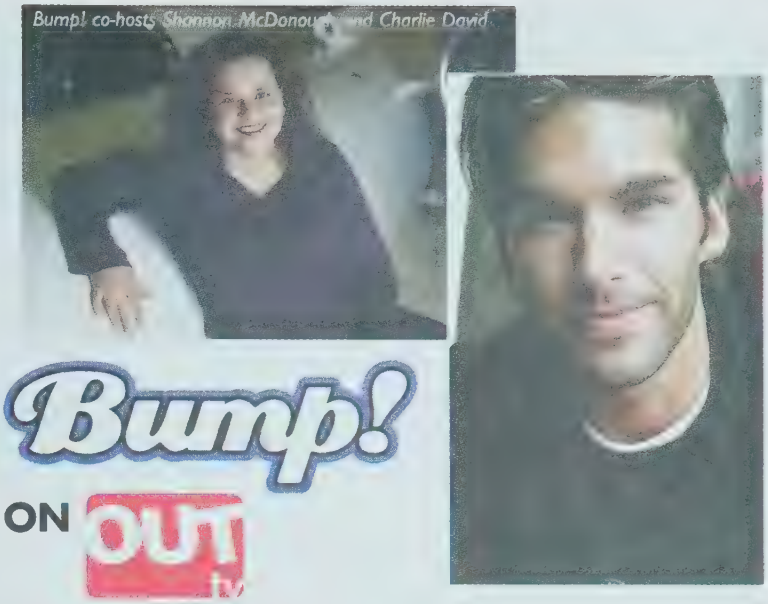
Charlie: It's difficult sometimes and my manager occasionally wants to pull her hair out. But you know, you take it one day at a time and do what you can do. It's difficult for me to turn down a show—as an artist all I want to do is work. Give me the opportunity and I would work every day if I could, but it does come down to when does this show end and when does this one begin, and is it possible to go back and forth? Sometimes it is, and sometimes it's not—you just have to go with the flow. Do the best that you can and hope that you're making the right choices. So far I'm having a blast, and I'm extremely happy to be *out* playing a gay character on one show and hosting a gay travel show—I couldn't ask for anything more.

Outlooks: How did it feel to be included in the last *Out Magazine* 2005 list of the top Out100 people?

Charlie: Oh my god! I was flabbergasted. When I got the call I was at *Outfest* in Philadelphia, and I was at the airport when my manager gave me the news. I couldn't believe it! I've watched that list for a few years now, and was one of those things that I thought, one day that would be really cool. I hope that I can do things, add to the community, but in no way did I think that would be this year! It was really cool but it is humbling to be amongst the likes of Elton John and Melissa Etheridge. It was encouraging and it was nice to be recognised as a young guy who's coming out, and I hope to provide some inspiration for other young guys, not only performers—but anybody—and encourage them to say "this is who I am, I'm proud of it" and embrace it. Stand tall and proud.

Outlooks: In the past some of your writing has been published. Are you planning any more articles?

Charlie: Not in terms of magazine articles, but I am working on a couple of screenplays and a television script. So who knows what may be next?



Outlooks: At the age of only twenty-five, you have experienced a very active and successful career, so where do you foresee your future?

Charlie: Oooh, well thank you! I really hope to continue to pursue my acting and I hope to continue to get the opportunity to portray interesting characters, be they gay or straight or otherwise. I hope that I continue to have the opportunity to bring to the small and large screen what it means to be gay. I think we are making huge progress and it's a really exciting time to be involved in the community, but we still have a long way to go. In mainstream televison, they portray gay characters often as the sidekick, or the stereotype, or the comic relief, which is great to be out there, but I would love to see them show more sides to gay life as we really are in the GLBT community.

Outlooks: How do you find time for a personal life with such a demanding career?

Charlie: Oh it's hard. I'll be honest I'm really lucky to have an amazing family and some very close friends that I call family, as well and that's the most important thing to me. I actually call *Bump!* Charlie's World Tour To Find A Boyfriend (laughs again). At this point, I think I'm a driven guy and career is important to me right now. I have these goals that I'm after, and I think you have to maintain that focus to make it happen. I hope I will meet that right guy one day.

Outlooks: When can we expect to see you in a gay role on the big screen? Has Hollywood come knocking yet for the *Brokeback Mountain* sequel?

Charlie: (Laughs) The big screen is definitely an ambition of mine. I had to turn down one project because of scheduling problems (The big *S* word). At my production company we have a feature in development right now—a gay love story for the big screen. It's going to be done in the Canadian Indy spirit, so you know...It's such an inspiration that a film like *Brokeback Mountain* has taken America, and really the world, by storm, and that it's just a love story. I find it truly amazing and such a testament to where we (the gay community) are today.

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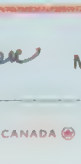

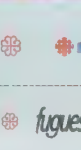

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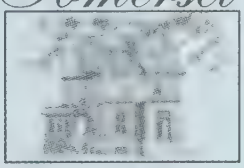

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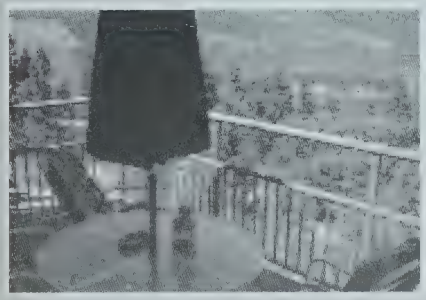

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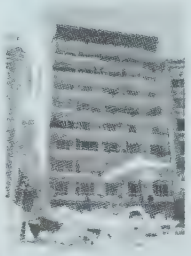

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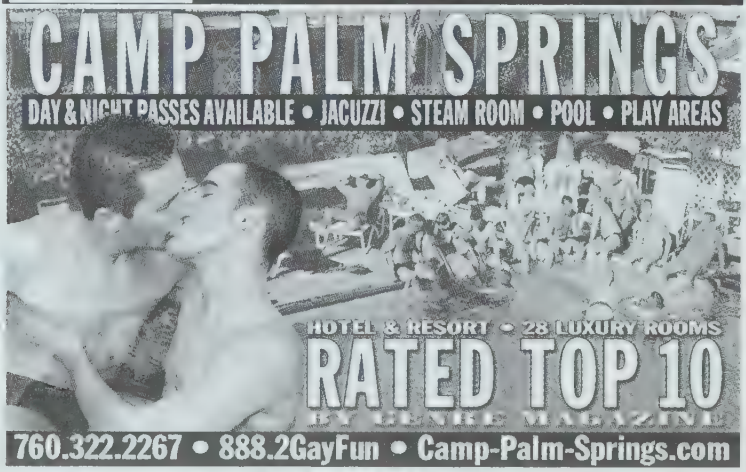

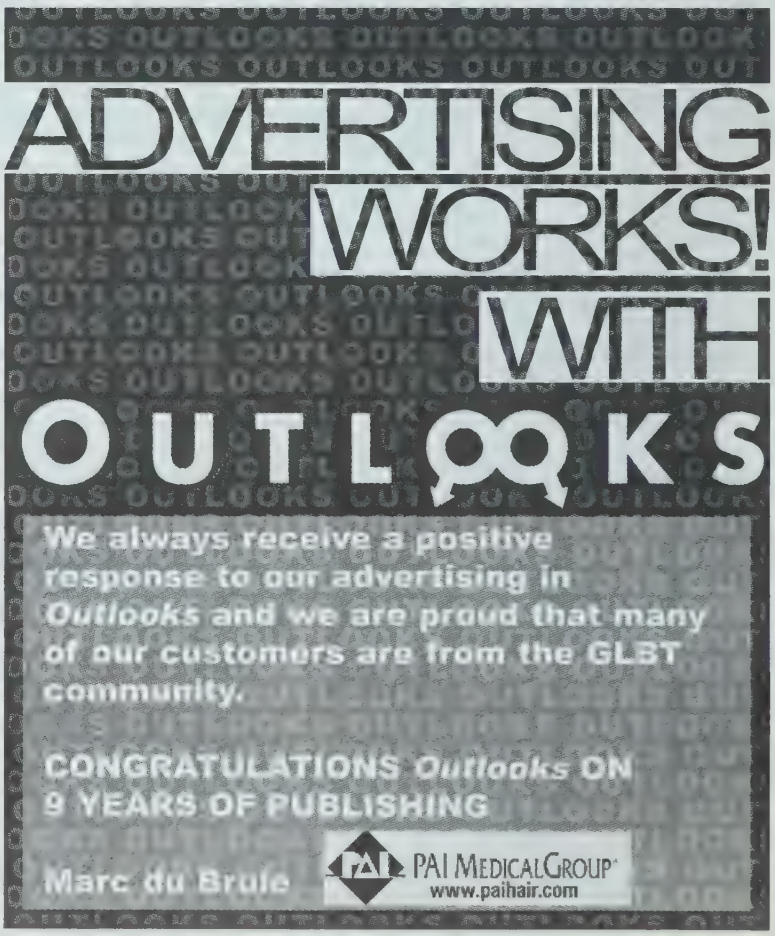

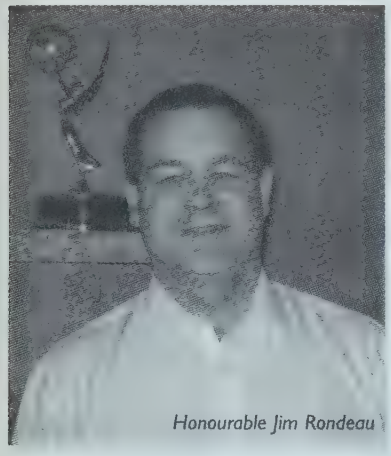

Honourable Jim Rondeau

Jim Rondeau Loves People And Places

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

The Honourable Jim Rondeau is Manitoba's energetic Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines, but he's a lot more than that.

For one thing, he's the first openly gay member of the Manitoba Legislature and lives contentedly with his partner of fourteen years, an award-winning computer graphics designer.

"We're both workaholics and both travel a lot, but we make sure we spend good quality time together. At Christmas we went to Victoria and spent time with all our nephews and nieces," says the affable Rondeau.

He thinks gay marriage is a great step forward but has no plans to rush out and go through some formal ceremony. He and his partner considered it briefly but they had made all the legal provisions about wills and living wills some time ago, so there seemed little point in going through a ceremony.

In an interview with *Outlooks*, he said he has no immediate anxieties over gay marriage rights now that the Conservatives have a minority government in Ottawa.

"I'm not apprehensive about that at all because there are many parties represented in Ottawa, and there will be no rush to change equality rights for gays," he says. "Mr. Harper has said there will be a free vote on the marriage issue and with the current numbers, I see no reason to think the law will be changed."

He expects a Harper government to move very cautiously and to seek to build consensus if it wants to remain in power.

Rondeau was first elected to the Legislature in 1999 and was appointed legislative assistant to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in 2002. He joined the cabinet in 2003 as Minister of Healthy Living, a position in the Department of Health. That was a fortunate appointment because he enjoys badminton, working out and cycling. As a former teacher, he had also coached numerous volleyball and badminton teams.

He says he enjoyed the post because it allowed him to introduce creative, new programs to encourage fitness among Manitobans and to focus on an improved quality of life. His promotion to Industry Minister came in October 2004 and has changed his life considerably.

For one thing, there's less chance to be as flexible and creative than in his old post as Healthy Living Minister. Many of the programs and procedures are laid down already.

The new job has also severely crimped his free time and he feels guilty that he now has to preprogram private social meetings through his appointments secretary.

"You have to think ahead to pre-program down time or just meet friends to see a movie or whatever," he says. "My schedule is worked out four to five months in advance."

Despite that, he knows balance is needed so he will deliberately program in a half-day or a weekend off, when he rigorously avoids talking shop or doing any political work. To relax he loves to go out for dinner or travel. Anything, in fact, but talk politics.

"I would love to visit many, many more countries because I love meeting new people and seeing new places," he says. "My work takes me across Canada and I just got back from Vancouver. Soon I will be at a mining meeting in Toronto and I travel throughout Manitoba. But I haven't had time yet to think about a vacation this year or where I'll go."

His busy schedule has also meant putting on hold some of his favourite causes, such as literacy. Each year he holds a barbecue and book sale, with the proceeds going to support literacy projects. Money raised helps adult learners with transport and babysitting costs. He believes literacy is the key to opportunity, yet, in his teaching days, he met many bright children in his teaching days who lacked reading and writing skills.

"It just held them back terribly," he says. "If you can't read or write you can't fill in a job application and it puts up many obstacles in life."

Before his political life began, Rondeau was a teacher and an adult work education coordinator for the Frontier School Division, where he helped establish eighteen adult learning centres and libraries. He also developed an award-winning school-to-work transition program for young people from northern Manitoba, where he has also taught.

He is an advocate of lifelong learning and is committed to community volunteerism. He has been a director on the board of the Literacy Partners of Manitoba and has had active involvement with the Optimist Club. He has also been involved as a volunteer with the St.John Ambulance Volunteer Services.

Much of his work has been with community clubs, parent councils, seniors groups, military organizations and community groups trying to improve life.

His typical day begins at 6:30 AM and is filled with meetings, attendance at the Legislature, media interviews and usually at least two events each evening. He rarely gets home before 11:00 PM and he works seven days a week, so the pace is punishing.

"As minister I see my main job as the creation of more high value, high quality jobs as we encourage economic growth," he says.

Rondeau is all for more GLBT people getting involved in politics, but he says many minority groups are underrepresented. He would like to see more women running for office, as well as more aboriginals.

He has won several awards, including the *Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal* in 2002, an *Optimist of the Year* award, a *Manitoba Peacekeeper Recognition* award, the *Conference Board of Canada Workplace Award* and several *Best Coach* awards. ▼

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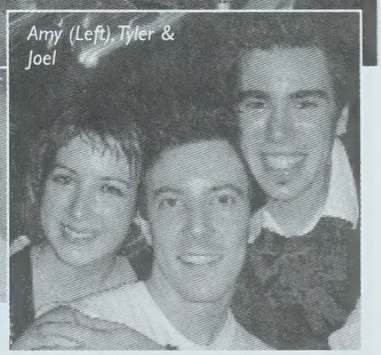

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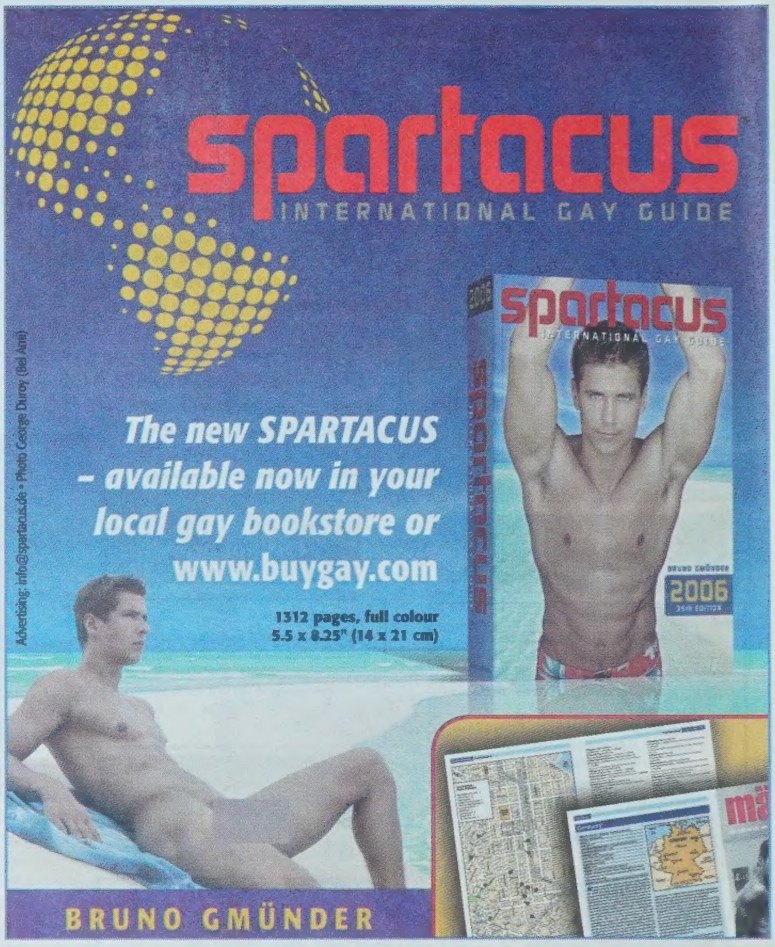

SEX STORIES 10

From: Blue Hotel Productions

Featuring: Lion, Silvio, Dan, Danne, Victor, Catalin, Marian, Costin, Eddy, Andy, Petro, Florin

Running Time:85 Minutes

This is the tenth in a series of compilation videos with stunning Scandinavian young men performing stories of their sexual exploits. Be prepared for the warmth of a Swedish country lodge in the darkness that comes with a Scandinavian winter, which is brightened by the presence of exceptional muscular bodies. In case you missed the previous Sex Stories volumes one through nine, this DVD contains previews of them all just to tease the viewer and make you rush back to your local video store to rent them all. Be ready for solo action, couples and threesomes with double penetration in a uniquely uncut European style.

A huge open fireplace surrounded by comfortable chairs and antiques is the setting for the first story. Three handsome young men complete this idyllic scene and as their clothes fall to the floor, the room is picture perfect. There's no odd man out in this threesome as they demonstrate togetherness with their sexual expertise and fulfill each other's lust. As their bodies intertwine, the two-in-one action is supreme and their appetites insatiable.

Each scene moves directly to the sex story and no time is wasted with superfluous dialogue. Whether it's the living room, the games room, the bedroom or the recreation room, there's non-stop action throughout. In fact, the clothes come off so fast you have to wonder why they bothered dressing in the first place.

With six different stories being retold there's enough variety to include something for everyone's taste. From striptease badminton to bench presses with a difference or coffee table action and a classic Hustler magazine for the closet case, each story is unique. The camera work and lighting make this a perfect Scandinavian winter pick me up. Find out how the Swedes survive their six months of winter and short daylight hours.

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★
BODIES:	★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★

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BRANDED

From: Falcon Studios

Featuring: Jeremy Penn, Cameron fox, Carlos Morales, Brian McClaine, Justin Dragon, Robert Balint, Roland Dane, Vince Ditonno, Lindon Hawk, Jason Tyler, Josh Weston, Andy Hunter, Jacob Hall, Ivan Andros

Running Time: 80 Minutes

On a hot sunny afternoon Carlos Morales is sitting alone by the hotel pool reading a magazine. Carlos' solitude is delightfully interrupted when Cameron Fox stretches out on the lounger beside him. In a tight red Speedo, Cameron is a tempting sight that would stop anybody from reading a magazine—Carlos being no exception. With piercing eyes, Carlos surveys Cameron's muscular, sun-tanned body and notices a strange scar on Cameron's left shoulder. Carlos gives into temptation and touches the unusual mark on Cameron's skin. This leads Cameron to explain that it is called the Mark Of The Falcon which signifies he is a member of an exclusive group of men dedicated to a way of life which involves living out one's fantasies.

Intrigued by this elite organization, Carlos wants to know more but Cameron explains that first he has to be selected by an existing member and pass a couple of tests. Still interested in learning more, Carlos asks Cameron to help him and this is followed by an invitation to Cameron's room to discuss the matter in private. The obvious bulge in Cameron's Speedo indicates that the first test is going to be a very big one. Carlos, ready for the challenge, is determined to pass with a high grade so he'll get to meet more of this group—whom he hopes are all hung like Cameron. Judging by Cameron's great pleasure it is apparent that Carlos will make excellent progress.

Apparently, this exclusive club is on a recruitment drive for new members. Size is one of the main criteria for candidates. Justin Dragon is another member in search of hot men on the short list to be tested. This leads Justin to the offices of Brian McClaine, where Ivan Andros welcomes him and ushers him into Brian's private office. The seductive Justin puts both young men to the test in a threesome that proves size really does matter in this elite men's club. They are both well qualified to join the fraternity.

Now it is time for all good men to come to the party as the club hosts an initiation meeting for potential new members. For old timers like Andy Hunter, Jason Tyler and Jacob Hall, the fresh new meat is welcome and they waste no time in showing their appreciation for the new faces. The orgy that follows is a collection of Falcon men that are rarely seen together and is a true feast of perfect bodies and well-hung studs.

The new recruits pass with flying colours and the branding ceremony follows. When the hot branding iron meets hot flesh, it sizzles (just like this whole movie!) and their permanent marks will ensure they never forget their initiation night. Now it is their turn to head out and look for more new recruits—hardly an unpleasant task!

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★★★★

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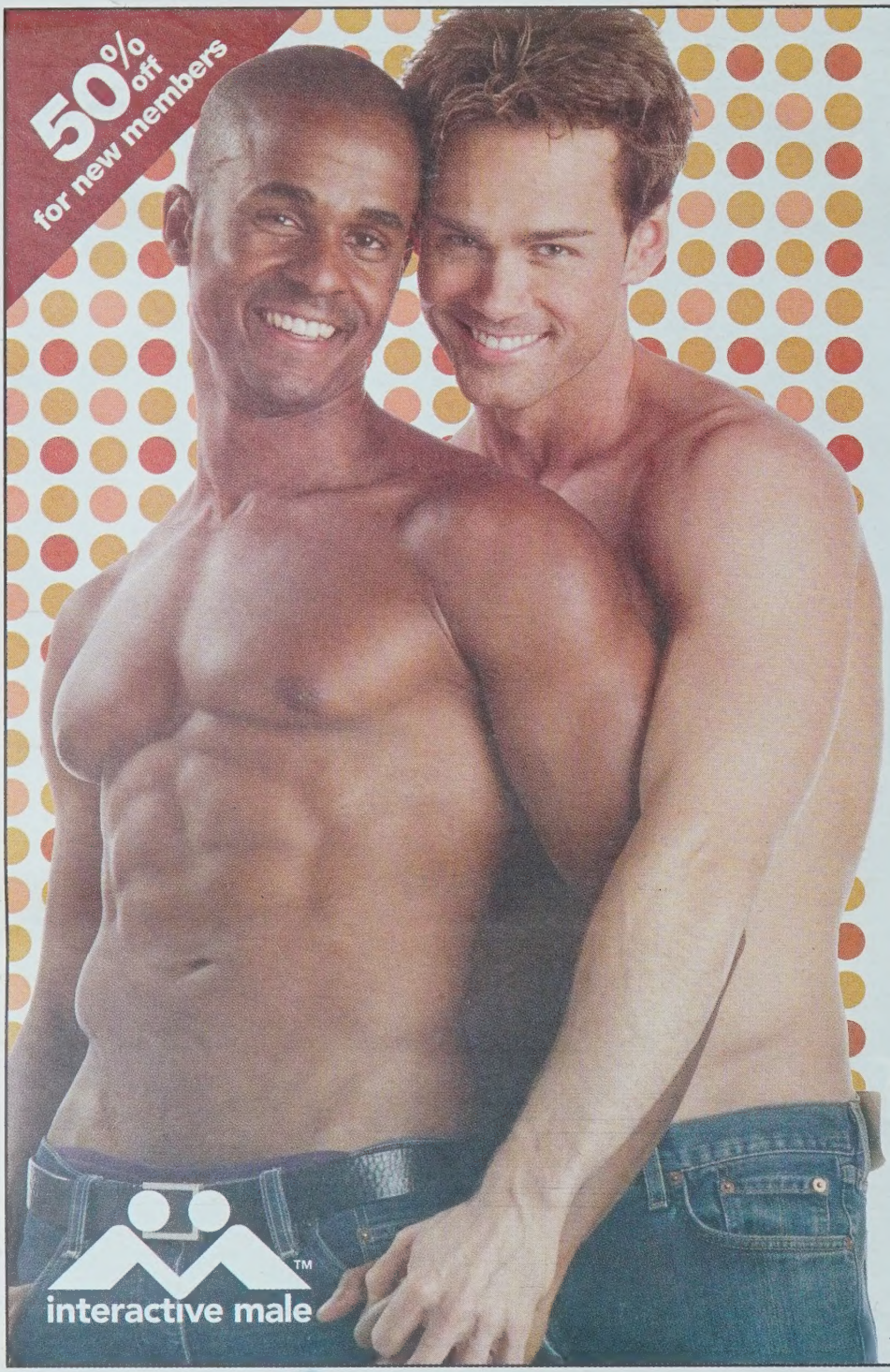

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